

Hafa Adai!

Man sentenced to 1-year in jail for beating elderly father. **PAGE 2**
CPA targets zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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AS EARLY VOTING ON NORTHERN ISLANDS STARTS TOMORROW

All 21,680 ballots arrive

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

All 21,680 ballots printed in Nebraska arrived in batches on Saipan and accounted for yesterday morning



Taisacan



Kapileo

» **CEC starts mailing absentee ballots tomorrow**

for the Nov. 8 general elections, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol.

See **BALLOTS** on **Page 4**

Hawaiian singer Baba B speaks to youth

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

Seeking to inspire and encourage community members, especially young individuals, the Department

of Youth Services and the CNMI Council for Arts and Culture hosted Hawaiian singer and musician Baba B at the Kagman Community Center yesterday.

See **SINGER** on **Page 4**



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Hosted by Division of Youth Services and CNMI Council of Arts and Culture, Hawaiian singer Baba B performs for an assembled crowd of individuals yesterday at the Kagman Community Center.

Rep. Celina Babauta calls Senate a rubber stamp

» **Lawmaker says House does due diligence**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying that members of the House of Representatives do their due diligence, Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) called

Friday the Senate as a rubber stamp of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Speaking at a press conference in the House chamber, Babauta said for Torres to contend that the Legislature does not have

See **BABAUTA** on **Page 4**



Babauta



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AHEC SCHOLARS

Twenty-nine Northern Marianas College Area Health Education Center (AHEC) scholars from the Nursing and Nursing Assistant Program together received close to \$10,000 in student earned stipends after completing didactic and clinical activities. On top of their regular academic classes, students participated in distance learning education focusing on emerging healthcare topics that included inter-professional education, behavioral health integration, social determinants of health, cultural competency, practice transformation, and current and emerging health issues. Such online learning opportunities are due in part through partnerships with Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center, Hawaii Rural Health ECHO, and the University of Guam-Guam Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.

\$46.97M disbursed for 2 local stimulus

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Division of Revenue and Taxation has disclosed that \$46.97 million in total American Rescue Plan Act money was disbursed in the Torres-Palacios administration's two Local Economic Impact Payments,

also known as local stimulus. Revenue and Taxation then-acting director Melvina

» **\$1.95M returned due to expiration**

Litulumar in her report to then-acting Finance Secretary Bertha Torres dated Sept. 7, 2022, said \$24,865,000 was

disbursed in the first distribution of local stimulus and that 32,110 stimulus See **STIMULUS** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

Congresswoman Uifaatali Amata is hailing House passage of the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act.

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NATION

Authorities charged 48 people in Minnesota with conspiracy and other counts in what they said was the largest pandemic-related fraud scheme yet.

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ENVIRONMENT

Australian wildlife authorities are investigating the deaths of 14 young sperm whales that were found beached on an island off of the southeastern coast.

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Local

Man sentenced to 1-year in jail for beating elderly father

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a one-year sentence on a man who pleaded guilty to assaulting his elderly father.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho has sentenced Dean Anthony Borja to serve an imprisonment term of one year, all suspended, except for six months.

Last Sept. 16, Borja pleaded guilty to the offense of senior citizen physical abuse, in violation of 6 CMC § 1453(a) in

Criminal Case No. 22-0120, while also admitting to violating the terms and conditions of his probation in Criminal Case No. 22-0020.

Borja, 38, has started serving his sentence and is expected to be released sometime in March 2023.

According to Camacho's sentencing order, Borja must serve the first six months of his one-year imprisonment day by day without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work release, weekend release, or any other

similar program.

Borja was also given credit for 37 days of time served.

Camacho stated that the remaining sentence is suspended but may be imposed in whole or in part for violation of law or Office of Adult Probation rules.

As for violating his probation in criminal case No. 22-0020D, Borja was sentenced to serve six months of his suspended sentence, not subject to parole, early release, work release, but shall run concurrently with his sentence in

criminal case no. 22-0120D.

After serving his sentence, Borja will be placed under supervised probation for three years.

In addition, he was ordered to pay a fine and court fees amounting to \$120 as well as a \$120 probation fee.

The judge also ordered Borja to have no direct or indirect contact with his father and to stay away from his father's residence in Kagman during his probationary period.

According to court documents, on or about July 28,

2022, on Saipan, the defendant willfully, knowingly, and intentionally endangered, hurt, ill-treated, mistreated, mishandled, victimized, struck, beat, or in any manner inflicted physical pain, injury, or mental distress or undue anguish

upon his father, a senior citizen by striking the victim with his hands, in violation of 6 CMC § 1453(a).

"The victim had minor injuries to his head and arm, but he did not require medical assistance," court information stated.

First Burnout competition at Island Summer Auto-Fest

By **LEIGH GASES**
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CORRESPONDENT

Car enthusiasts are in for a treat not only with sights but also with the sounds as the first ever burnout competition will be held during the Island Summer Auto Fest this Saturday, Sept. 24.

The burnout competition itself will be from 3pm to 6pm and will be held at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot, while the autofest will be held at the Marianas Business Plaza until 9pm.

The entry fee is \$25 per car. There will be a cash prize and trophy for the winner.

"It will be a maximum of 20 cars burning out on a metal plate for 30 seconds to produce the biggest smoke. This is NMTech's Automotive Outreach to entice more students to join our Automotive Technology Class. We invite you to come down, take some cool photos, learn more about the event and of course enjoy the event," said NMTech's marketing coordinator Benjamin Babauta.

According to the internet, a burnout is the practice of keeping a vehicle stationary,

and spinning its wheels, the resultant friction causing the tires to heat up and smoke.

For more information on the burnout competition, contact Benjamin Babauta at 670-322-6608.

The autofest will showcase many modified vehicles, competitions in two-door vehicles, four-door vehicles, trucks, "4x4," "Cafe Bikes," "Cruiser Bikes," "VIP Style," "Classics," "Scooter/Moped," and a "Sound Off Competition."

The event is open to the public and individuals with customized cars are free to join.

The registration deadline is today, Sept. 22.

Also, during the event, there will be a Budweiser "Kings of Cornhole" Tournament.

First place will receive cash prize and Budweiser Corn Hole board set, with two cases of Bud Family beer, second place will receive cash prize with two cases of Bud Family beer.

There is a \$25 registration fee for the first 26 teams.

Contact James Fleming, who is the host of the event, at 670-285-2247 for more information.

Deadline for nominations for the 2022 Governor's Humanities Awards tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council said the deadline to nominate deserving individuals or organizations for a 2022 Governor's Humanities Award is tomorrow, Sept. 23.

Each year, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council works in collaboration with the Office of the Governor to honor and recognize individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions to the humanities in the CNMI community. Nominations should be limited to contributions in one or more of the following categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities Preservation of CNMI History

- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practice

- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in or out of the class-

room setting)

- Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities

Nomination forms and more information about each award category are available on the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's website at nmhcouncil.org.

Awardees will be recognized in October during Humanities Month.

The humanities include the study and interpretation of language; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the human environment with particular attention to our diverse heritage, traditions, and history. (PR)

Life opens on 5G.



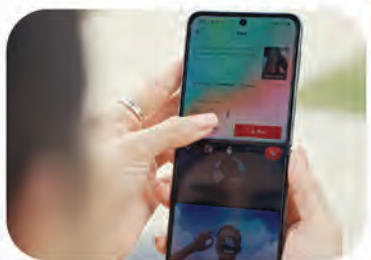
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\$5K bail set for woman in car rental scheme

The Superior Court has imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on a woman accused of taking part in a scheme to steal a rental car to claim a reward after returning it.

Last Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on Laraad Makaila Aldan Ramangmou, one of two accused of stealing a rental car and asking the rental company for a reward for finding the car.

Ramangmou, 28, is currently facing charges of theft of vehicle, tampering with a vehicle, and criminal mischief.

Following the bail hearing, Ramangmou was remanded to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court on Sept. 28 at 10am for a preliminary hearing, while his arraignment was set for Oct. 3 at 9am.

As of last Tuesday, the court was unable to appoint an attorney to represent Ramangmou due to a conflict.

Meanwhile, assistant attorney general Carmen Borja appeared for the government.

According to court documents, on Aug. 29, Ramangmou and Anthony D. Villanueva III rented a dark gray Mazda CX-3 from a car rental company.

On Sept. 7, the Department of Public Safety issued an alert for the Mazda, noting that it might be operated by Ramangmou or Villanueva.

On Sept. 15, DPS officially issued an active theft of vehicle case involving the Mazda.

On Sept 17, police units were dispatched to As Gonno in an abandoned house where they saw a dark gray Mazda CX-3 but with a different license plate which turned out to be for a 2018 silver Toyota Yaris.

While police officers were in the area, they saw a woman, who was later identified as Ramangmou, running into the jungle.

This prompted police to pursue and apprehend her.

After apprehending her, she was brought back to the abandoned house and was asked about the Mazda.

However, she claimed she did not know anything about it, adding that the police should ask Villanueva or "Ton."

The police noted that the Mazda's front lower bumper and its tire rims had been spray-painted gold.

In addition, the front and rear emblems of the vehicle were covered with tape, and the front left portion of the windshield was shattered.

Police said they checked the vehicle's identification number and it matched the license plate of the missing Mazda.

Meanwhile, in an interview with a rental company agent, he told police that the vehicle had no damage when it was

rented from their company.

He added that on Sept. 13, he received a call from a woman asking if there was any cash reward if she found the stolen

vehicle.

In addition, the female individual also kept insisting that she needs a reward or else she will sell the car for parts.

Ramangmou, in a freely given statement to the police, admitted that she and Villanueva rented the car for two days, and that she paid for it.

She also admitted that she spray-painted the rims and front bumper of the vehicle.

She also admitted to breaking the front right windshield

and removing the front panel of the dashboard.

Her co-defendant, Villanueva, was charged separately. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*



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18HS950	2018	KIA FORTE	\$17,059	\$14,995	18HS947	2018	HONDA CIVIC EX	\$23,087	\$21,995
15P325	2015	TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	\$20,295	\$15,995	22M021A	2019	MAZDA6 GT SEDAN	\$29,936	\$24,995
16P446	2016	MAZDA3 SPORT	\$18,115	\$17,995	20P413	2020	TOYOTA C-HR LE	\$27,407	\$26,995
17P365	2017	HYUNDAI TUCSON SE	\$19,752	\$17,995	18R289	2018	FORD F-150 XL	\$30,387	\$27,995
17P370	2017	TOYOTA COROLLA LE	\$20,726	\$18,995	19R286	2019	MAZDA CX-9 SPORT SUV 4D	\$30,362	\$29,995
8H054E	2019	HYUNDAI KONA SE	\$21,651	\$18,995	22H191A	2016	TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 SPORT 4D	\$35,480	\$29,995
21D129A	2018	HYUNDAI KONA SE	\$20,789	\$18,995	13P359	2013	TOYOTA FJ CRUISER SPORT	\$33,890	\$29,995
18HS1000	2018	MAZDA 6 SPORT WHITE	\$23,321	\$18,995	20H141E	2018	HYUNDAI GENESIS-G90	\$38,204	\$34,995
14P466	2014	CHEVY CAMARO SOLD	\$20,597	\$19,995	19P367	2019	HONDA RIDGELINE	\$47,459	\$39,995
16P424	2016	NISSAN MAXIMA	\$27,062	\$19,995	10P447	2010	FORD RAPTOR	\$38,151	\$39,995
18P393	2018	NISSAN ROGUE SPORT	\$22,661	\$19,995	18P478	2018	FORD EXPLORER	\$41,387	\$39,995
7P460	2007	TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD	\$25,887	\$19,995	19P455	2019	KIA STINGER GT2	\$45,870	\$44,995
22M032A	2018	HONDA CIVIC EX	\$23,840	\$21,995	21H096D	2021	HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED	\$55,838	\$46,995



2016 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING
SALE PRICE **\$17,995**
• KBB: \$21,604 • 38,964 MILES • STK: 16P360



2017 NISSAN 370Z TOURING
SALE PRICE **\$31,995**
• KBB: \$33,080 • 37,080 MILES • STK: 12C015A



2017 TOYOTA TUNDRA TRD
SALE PRICE **\$50,995**
• 40,385 MILES • STK: 22D029A



2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE
SALE PRICE **\$17,995**
• KBB: \$20,397 • 18,200 MILES • STK: 21H079A



2018 HONDA CIVIC TYPE-R
SALE PRICE **\$44,995**
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CPA targets zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Port Authority has recently adopted a new policy which aims to completely deter the agency from emitting greenhouse gasses by year 2050.

During a CPA board meeting on Rota last Thursday, CPA board members unanimously voted to adopt a new environmental policy that has been in the works for sometime with the ultimate goal of ensuring CPA no longer emits greenhouse gasses into the CNMI environment by year 2050.

Greenhouse gasses include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, etc., which trap heat in the earth's atmosphere resulting in climate change.

So, CPA's new environmental policy seeks to address the threats created by climate change and the continued dependence on fossil fuels.

"The primary aim of this Environmental Policy is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of strategies that enhance en-

ergy efficiency, reduce CPA's impact on the climate, and utilize renewable resources for the benefit of the CNMI's natural environment and for the wellbeing of all current and future CNMI citizens. This environmental policy commits CPA to achieving adequate environmental management and fostering sustainable development through the port's operations and processes. This policy sets a goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, which aligns with goals set by the Biden administration," the new policy states.

In a brief statement from CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said it is important for CPA to implement policies such as these to aid in the fight against climate change as CPA's six ports are the economic lifelines for this Commonwealth.

"Climate change is real. No one knows how to solve the problem without having unintended consequences and the best we can do is do our part. This is important to all of us

at CPA. That's why we are making it a part of how we do business. We also hope to realize some savings from policies and procedures that make us less reliant on non-green energy sources," she said.

"Since I've been chair, I've been doing nothing but recovering from typhoons; from Mangkut to Soudelor to Yutu. I wasn't chair through all those typhoons but we are still recovering from all of them; whether it be at the airports or seaports. CPA feels the brunt of these storms and we, as an agency, cannot shut down. It's not just about the economy. It's also about our people's access to emergency medical treatment, or to just simply be with family, especially during their time of need," King-Hinds added.

The policy has since been in effect for CPA.

Pursuant to this new policy, CPA will conduct regular assessments of the activities, products, and services used at its airports and seaports to determine those

items' impact on the environment.

"These regular assessments should occur at least once every five years. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the best opportunities for improving CPA's environmen-

tal footprint. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, measures to prevent and minimize emissions and the development and implementation of alternative energy sources," the policy states.

HAWAIIAN

From Page 1

The mini concert was held as a youth outreach, and was a special treat to DYS after-school program participants, volunteers, and staff, as well as several community members.

Baba B gave beautiful acoustic renditions of his songs including two of his hit songs *Big Boy in Love* and *All My Life*, which brought smiles and applause from the audience. The singer also gave motivational talks between each number encouraging the youth to be kind, uplift, chase their dreams, and change the world.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Baba B, lead singer and native of Oahu, Hawaii, said "For us at Baba B Music, our main thing is not just music, but to ensure that our future generation has a spot for themselves in the future where they live, and I think that through music we can teach our kids to be more kind to others, find value in yourself, and never stop dreaming. I always say whatever I want to do in life, just keep going, there's nothing at the end of quitting, it's always better to get up, dust yourself off, and go for it."

During his performance the singer expressed his love for Guam and the CNMI, and mentioned that although his appearance at the event was a sort of a last-minute arrangement, he saw it as a wonderful opportunity, and one close to his heart, as he seeks to inspire and uplift the next generation.

"I think it's just a great opportunity for us to just reach our youth, in a way that they might hear us."

The singer told *Saipan Tribune*,

STIMULUS

From Page 1

cards were issued.

Litulumar said \$1,951,898 was returned due to expiration for not using the money by the deadline.

Under the first local stimulus, \$500 was given per eligible filer and dependent in the CNMI. Revenue and Taxation started distributing the cards in August 2021.

With respect to distribution of the second local stimulus, Litulumar said \$22,107,500 was disbursed and 27,367 cards were issued.

The cards have been used to date.

Under the second stimulus, \$500 was given to each eligible filer and plus an additional \$500 per dependent in the CNMI. Revenue and Taxation started distributing the cards last June.

Revenue and Taxation will continue to process the second stimulus cards through Dec. 31, 2022. Funds deposited into local stimulus cards will expire by Jan. 31, 2023.

Litulumar's report was among the many documents that Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig submitted

"You know, sometimes the youth might not hear us when we speak, but they hear us through the music, and I think that's very important."

CNMI Council for Arts and Culture executive director Parker Y. Yobei said Baba B performing for the youth yesterday was a treat for everyone.

"We wanted to do this for the kids, because they think they hardly have a chance to witness a show and talent like Baba B, especially the shows that come from Hawaii, and other shows. I wanted to do this for the kids, so they can experience it, and hopefully they can chill and enjoy Baba B's music."

He added "This is a great partnership with DYS. We have other programs that we do, after school programs, and this is the beginning of the new fiscal year, so we wanted to make sure we include everybody, that everybody has access to the arts."

Federal program coordinator of the Family and Youth Enhancement program Jennifer Tanaka said "We are pretty excited, this is the first time we're going to have a big-time musician here to play for the kids."

DYS administrator Vivian Tenorio Sablan said "It's a good day to get everybody else together, and just enjoy music, and hopefully inspire our younger generation to one day become like our star musician."

She added "We are very fortunate to have this opportunity extended to us, and we are really appreciative of the partnership with the Arts Council."

Sablan also said the night as one of "Interaction, music, and enjoyment" which indeed came to pass.

last Sept. 12 to House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Manglona issued a subpoena to compel Finance to provide numerous reports or documents that the committee members have sought.

Among the reports/documents that Manglona requested were for a total Business Gross Revenue Tax collected from all stimulus packages issued though the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and total BGRT collected from the Travel Bubble Program through Korea and Japan.

Litulumar said Revenue and Taxation does not have a database to differentiate total BGRT collected through ARPA funds for stimulus packages nor the Travel Bubble.

She said the data provided is total BGRT collected for the years 2021 and 2022, as of Sept. 1, 2022.

Litulumar said total BGRT collected for tax year 2021 is \$1,421,492,000 and \$929,133,647 for tax year 2022.

She said tax year 2022 data is only up to a part of August as August filing date is not until Sept. 30, 2022.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

any authority over American Rescue Plan Act funds, is simply untrue.

She said they tried to do it with House Bill 22-33 offered by Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), but it has been sitting in the Senate since last year because senators refused to act on it.

Manglona's legislation seeks to require legislative oversight over approximately \$515 million in ARPA that would be allocated for the CNMI for government operations.

"And my message today is we are not the Senate. We do not rubber stamp anything the governor says. We do our due diligence," Babauta said.

Babauta is running for a Senate seat under the NMI Democratic Party in the Nov. 8 general elections. She chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) refused to comment yesterday about Babauta's statements.

Torres recently slammed the House majority leadership during a KKMP radio press briefing over their version of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget bill that he described as "irresponsible, negligent, and illegal," by first reducing the funding for the departments and agencies, yet giving themselves an additional \$1.2 million of House

allocations.

Gilbert Birnrich, the legal counsel for the Office of the Governor, at the same press briefing said the biggest issue from a legal standpoint in the House's version of the budget bill is the fact that the House was trying to appropriate the ARPA funds for various uses, which he believes is simply inappropriate and illegal.

Department of Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, who also joined the press briefing, said the House version of the budget bill has the biggest red flags across the board.

In the House majority's press conference Friday to address the concerns raised by Torres, Birnrich, and Atalig, Babauta said data backed by the Conference of State Legislatures, in a survey conducted last year, found that eight states have executive decision rights over ARPA allocations, six states have total legislative authority over ARPA funds, and 34 states have joint legislative authority.

As to the \$20 million in ARPA funds that was returned from Medicaid, Babauta said what Torres did was allocate ARPA funds to Medicaid for the \$20 million in local matching.

"The U.S. Treasury said you can't do that, you can't use federal funds to pay for your debts. And that is why the \$20 million is being returned," she said.

Babauta said \$20 million was identified this current fiscal year by the governor so that money is in place

for the House to allocate.

"He simply wants whatever he wants with and says no, you can't touch that," she said, referring to Torres.

Babauta said if there was a genuine understanding of the statute, anything identified by the governor as a resource is fair play for the Legislature and the House to allocate.

With respect to government retirees, Babauta said the governor says that retirees are his priority. She noted, however, that in his budget submission for the next fiscal year, Torres did not identify any funds for them.

"We were left to make those serious decisions on who to cut and who to take money away from in order to make the retirees whole. We committed to it. We don't just say, we do it," Babauta pointed out.

At last week's review hearing in federal court, NMI Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C. H. Tang and U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood commended Torres and his administration for diligently making payments to the Settlement Fund and prioritizing the retirees despite the economic hardships caused by super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Tang also thanked the Legislature for their commitment to the retirees and funding the Settlement Fund.

Northern Islands early voting.

Igitol said voters just need to present a valid picture identification card.

Valentino Nicky Taisacan, who is running for Northern Islands mayor under the Republican Party, said yesterday afternoon that there are five people currently staying on Agrihan and four on Alamagan. The remaining are staying on Saipan.

Taisacan went to the CEC office to pick up a specimen of the ballot.

Jocelyn Frances Aldan Kapileo is challenging Taisacan for the post as an independent candidate.

For Northern Islands early voting, she said they're pretty much prepared as they have the main thing—the ballots.

There are 184 registered voters for the Northern Islands. CEC received 205 ballots for the Northern Islands.

"We would like the voters to come in through the front door and we'll check them there, and then we will bring them back to the conference room where they will vote and deposit their ballots there," Igitol said.

CEC's conference room in Susupe is the designated polling site for the

BALLOTS

From Page 1

This developed as Igitol said they are all set for the start of early voting for the Northern Islands tomorrow, Friday.

She also disclosed that starting Friday they will start mailing the absentee ballots.

With respect to the ballots, Igitol said they received all the ballots for all precincts in the CNMI and completed the inventory yesterday morning.



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Cantor meets with Palau President Whipps, Jr.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor recently completed her first official visit to the Republic of Palau where she met with island leaders and emphasized the agency's commitment to the people of the

island nation.

"I am here to emphasize our commitment to the relationship that we share under the Compact of Free Association on behalf of the Department of the Interior," said Assistant Secretary Cantor. "We remain committed to supporting communities in Palau, as evidenced by the

recent inaugural meeting of the Palau Economic Advisory Group."

Cantor met with President Surangel Whipps, Jr., to learn firsthand about the successes as well as the challenges facing the people of Palau. She met with U.S. Embassy officials and visited the Ngar-dok Nature Reserve to learn

more about the special partnership for natural resource conservation and protection that Palau shares with the National Park Service.

Cantor also visited the Palau National Communications Corp.n, a recent recipient of Compact funding support for telecommunications infrastructure security and resiliency, and other important organizations such as the Palau Community College

to get a sense of long-term economic sustainability and needs for the resilience of Palau. She spoke with officials who recently contributed to the first meetings of the Economic Advisory Group (EAG) launched last month in Palau. Called for under the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review Agree-

ment, the EAG was recently established to advise and provide recommendations on how to contribute to the long-term economic sustainability and resilience of Palau.

More information about the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs can be found at www.doi.gov/oia. (PR)

Cantor visits Guam, announces \$15M from Inflation Reduction Act for US territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor today completed her first official visit to Guam where she met with island leaders, emphasized the agency's commitment to

the people of Guam, and announced new investments from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Cantor visited with Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio and announced that \$15 million

in funding for climate change technical assistance will be made available under the Inflation Reduction Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The Inflation Reduction Act is a historic and transformational investment toward achieving President Biden's ambitious goals to tackle the climate crisis while lowering costs for working families and creating good-paying jobs.

In addition, Cantor announced a \$167,815 investment provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the University of Guam. The funding will be used for the University's Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Pesticide Tree Injection Program to service ports of entry to prevent the

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle from spreading on Guam and throughout the region.

To date, \$57 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced for Guam. This year alone, the territory will receive nearly \$30 million for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports and more than \$26 million for clean water. More projects will be added in the coming months, as funding opportunities become grant awards and formula funds become available.

The assistant secretary also had a meeting with Guam chief judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood to discuss matters related to the Biennial Pacific Judicial Conference and the Joint Annual District Court Conferences for both Guam and the CNMI. (PR)

Water service interruptions for parts of Fina Sisu postponed

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that the water service interruption for the Joeten Subdivision in Fina Sisu scheduled for Sept. 20 has been rescheduled to tomorrow, Sept. 22, from 8am to 5:30pm.

CUC also said the scheduled water service interruption originally set tomorrow, Sept. 22, for customers located at the Joeten Subdivision in Fina Sisu along Bobolong Drive has been postponed to Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, from 8am to 5:30pm.

Both postponements were made due to inclement weather conditions to perform the work needed for the project. Customers should expect low water pressure to no water within the outage period.

The scheduled water service interruptions are to allow CUC's contractor for the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement

Project to perform the permanent abandonment of the existing 6-inch ACP at Tun Antonio Apa Road after the isolation and to also remove the temporary 6-inch gate valve and cap the existing ACP. Customers should expect normal water service soon thereafter.

This project is part of the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project funded by USEPA, to provide a more reliable water system. The transition work is in part of the decommissioning of the old waterline to eliminate risks of contamination and frequent line breaks.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RSQ-22-037

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR CUC'S SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (SWIMS) PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified firms for Program Management Services for CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program. This is a comprehensive planning, investigation, design, construction and operations approach to manage Non-Revenue Water and the delivery of safe and affordable drinking water to the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the RSQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 22-037, Request for Statement of Qualifications for Program Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) Program" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2022**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to a lack of information or understanding of the RSQ requirements in the course of the Consultant's preparation of an SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible to being selected for the award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-039

GARAPAN SEWER MAINS AND MANHOLES REPLACEMENTS (CORAL TREE AVE., DATE STREET, CPL DERENCE JACK ROAD, PLUMERIA AVENUE, PALM STREET, GINGER AVENUE AND ROYAL PALM AVENUE)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Garapan Sewer Mains and Manholes Replacements (Coral Tree Avenue, Date Street, CPL Derence Jack Road, Plumeria Avenue, Palm Street, Ginger Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, replacement and rehabilitation of sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, relocation of existing 10-inch waterline and the abandonment of existing sewer line, removal and removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Infrastructure Recovery Program (IRP) office of the Governor. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA/IRP.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-039, Garapan Sewer Mains and Manholes Replacements - Coral Tree Avenue, Date Street, CPL Derence Jack Road, Plumeria Avenue, Palm Street, Ginger Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 12, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician Senior, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

House passes Amata-co-sponsored Peace Corps Reauthorization Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Uifaatali Amata is hailing House passage of the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act, H.R. 1456, on which she is one of the seven original cosponsors. Notably for the Pacific region, the bill includes a requirement for a Peace Corps report to Congress on the presence and planning of the Peace Corps in the Pacific Islands, along with a strategy and proposed timetable for expanding to more places in the Pacific, and consultations with these nations.

The bipartisan bill, endorsed by the National Peace Corps Association, is led by Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) and Congressman Garret Graves (R-LA), co-chairs of the Peace Corps Caucus, with Congresswoman Aumua Amata (American Samoa), Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY), Congressman Dean Phillips (D-MN), Congressman Ed Case (D-HI), and Congressman Albio Sires (D-NJ). Since their introduction of the bill, it gathered the public support of over 100 additional Members of the House.

Amata was a former Peace Corps staffer (Northern Mariana Islands 1967-1968), and the interest later extended to her family, as one of Amata's daughters, Kirsten, is a returned Peace Corps volunteer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This picture Uifaatali Amata was taken on Saipan during her time as a Peace Corps staffer.

who served in Bulgaria. Congressman Garamendi (Ethiopia 1966-1968) is a returned Peace Corps volunteer.

The Peace Corps Reauthorization Act provides additional federal funding and resources to advance the Peace Corps' mission around the world and better support current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers, covering the next several years. Among the key improvements are an increase of 60 days of health insurance following service for returning volunteers, along with expanded whistleblower protections.

"The Peace Corps is a wonderful program, and I'm delighted to see a reauthorization pass the House," said

Amata. "The volunteers learn so much and often look back on those two years as some of the most important of their lives, and the program benefits people wherever these volunteers serve. Congratulations to Congressmen Garamendi and Garret Graves upon passage. I am hopeful that reauthorization and

increases lead to continued restoration of programs in the Pacific."

In July, Amata with a group of U.S. Senators and Representatives advocated for expanding and renewing Peace Corps efforts in the Pacific region. In a letter to the Director of the Peace Corps, Carol Spahn, the Members of Congress affirmed

support for reopening in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The region once included 13 Peace Corps programs, including those four, and previous efforts in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

The lawmakers stated: "Peace Corps volunteers ev-

erywhere play a key role in strengthening the people-to-people ties between the United States and their host countries. The renewal of and return to in-person programs can be a starting point for greater Peace Corps presence in the Pacific Islands, which promotes a strong, vibrant, and resilient region." (PR)

UOG to host community night at the Guam Museum



UOG Exhibitgoers check out the University of Guam's 70th Anniversary Exhibit during its opening night on Aug. 18 at the Sen. Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum & CHamoru Educational Facility.

The University of Guam invites the community to the "Night at the Museum," a free event organized by the UOG Student Government Association. The event is open to the public and will take place from 5pm to 9pm on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Sen. Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum in Hagåtña. The

event will feature a tour of the University of Guam 70th Anniversary Exhibit, an outdoor movie screening from 6:30pm to 8pm, live entertainment, activities, refreshments, giveaways, and raffle prizes. Date: Thursday, Sept. 22

■ **Time:** 5pm-9pm
■ **Location:** Guam Museum Courtyard



UOG University of Guam president Thomas W. Krise takes photos of one of the displays during UOG's 70th Anniversary Exhibit opening night on Aug. 18 at the Sen. Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum & CHamoru Educational Facility.

■ **Admission:** Free
■ **To register:** <https://bit.ly/3BECMso>

The exhibit is part of UOG's 70th anniversary since the Territorial College of Guam was founded in 1952. Highlights of the exhibit include an augmented reality experience on visitors' cell phones, and special displays celebrating

other major anniversaries at the University, including the 50th anniversary of the UOG Marine Lab and the 40th anniversary of the UOG Endowment Foundation. The exhibit will be open to the public with free admission through Oct. 15 during the museum's normal hours: 9am to 2pm from Tuesday to Friday. (PR)



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DECREASED BY
30%

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF PANDEMIC:

1 OF 4
RESIDENTS HAVE
BEEN INFECTED

12,953
TOTAL REPORTED
CASES

39
DEATHS

Opinion

Hafa Adail Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Offering real refuge: We must rethink our approach to arriving asylum seekers

Serious people should have a lot of questions about Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's busing asylum seekers to New York, the most serious of which concern whether he and other governors sending migrants here, Chicago, D.C., Martha's Vineyard and elsewhere are breaking the law by misleading people and transferring them under false pretenses.

However, unless and until a court or the feds steps in, buses are going to keep arriving at Port Authority, carrying thousands of people who have been sent on their way in bad faith, with no coordination with the mayor's office or local nonprofits. It would be very easy for Abbott to open lines of communication with Mayor Eric Adams, but he won't do that because the sole point is scoring political points.

Unfortunately, by scrambling to accommodate migrants in our overburdened shelter system and publicly complaining about the strain the inflow is putting on our right-to-shelter city, the city has yet to effectively respond to Abbott's cynical, immoral stunt. The city should not violate the decades-old settlement that requires anyone without a place to stay to have the option of city-provided shelter, nor should it abandon a commitment to helping these new arrivals.

The error here is treating this as a homelessness problem when it's not. The light at the end of the tunnel for the local unhoused people is often assistance with a CityFHEPS housing voucher—the sort that immigrants without clear legal status are ineligible for, proof in and of itself that the homeless system's infrastructure is a bad match for a crisis that's not about the cost of housing or drug abuse or mental health but about asylum seekers shipped by the hundreds from elsewhere.

Instead, the city should look to localities in border states that have over the years developed robust networks of volunteers who provide food, shelter and assistance to migrants. There are undoubtedly thousands of people in the five boroughs and its environs who would step up and welcome them with open arms.

Gov. Kathy Hochul should step in and do more to help coordinate an approach that can help some asylum seekers make their way elsewhere. Long Island and the city's suburbs can help take the burden off the five boroughs. Buffalo has over the years received thousands of refugees to its enormous benefit. This doesn't mean turning migrants away from city shelter, per se, but working to offer them more options, and if they do need to be placed in a taxpayer-provided bed, creatively clearing the bottlenecks at Bellevue's intake center.

As for the feds, their inaction or outright incompetence is what facilitates Abbott's actions. Instead of standing by and letting this play out, the administration should recommit to helping place and take asylum seekers where there's capacity across America. We can be both more humane and more efficient.

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Are the US News college rankings a joke?

I didn't go to an Ivy League college. In fact, I never even thought of applying, and you probably didn't either.

This month, U.S. News & World Report decided to demote Columbia University from No. 2 for best university in America to No. 18 after the school was accused of providing false information to boost its ranking. What does it say about the value of such rankings when a supposed measure of quality can slip overnight?

In August, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona bluntly called popular college rankings "a joke." Why?

Probably because they celebrate institutions that represent less than 1% of the college-going population. The top 10 "best" colleges have billions of endowment dollars, are more exclusive than inclusive and reject almost every student who applies. They serve the few and fortunate and do more to reinforce socioeconomic inequality than to mitigate it.

If you happen to be in the 1% of students who apply and eventually enroll in one of those schools, the U.S. News ranking is for you! The children of the top 1% of earners are 77 times more likely to enroll in an Ivy League school than all students whose parents are in the bottom income quintile. But, if you're part of the other 99% of prospective students, you'll likely be considering other options.

Luckily for you, there are tons of great colleges—most of which don't make the U.S. News list at all. Yet they're actually closer to serving the true purpose of higher education.

Here's the question we should be asking about higher education: Do colleges exist mainly to serve the very few and the overwhelmingly wealthy? Or, is their purpose to lift the current generation up, provide its members with the necessary skills to compete in today's workforce and leave them better off than their parents?

If you're a prospective college student, it's probably the latter mission that speaks most to you.

To help students and their families make decisions that reflect what they want, we need to evaluate institutions in a different way. This year, I released an Economic Mobility Index on colleges with Third Way, a national think tank.

It works like this. Rather than giving substantial weight for reputation and selectivity, the EMI gives more weight to an institution's record in enrolling a larger proportion of students from lower- and moderate-income backgrounds in comparison with other schools. The index also evaluates colleges on how well they serve these students. One key measure is the return on investment that the average low-income student gets from attending a particular institution.

To determine this, we looked at the time it takes students to recoup their educational costs based on the earnings boost they obtain by attending the institution—which is the additional income they are making relative to their peers who have obtained

By **MICHAEL ITZKOWITZ**
Los Angeles Times

Michael Itzkowitz is a senior fellow at Third Way, a think tank in Washington, D.C. He served as the director of the Department of Education's College Scorecard during the Obama administration.



a high school diploma but have no college experience. The data show that many colleges provide low-income students (those from families making \$30,000 or less) enough of an earnings boost, or premium, that it allows them to pay down their higher education costs within five years or less.

If an institution scores high on the index, that indicates it enrolls a socioeconomically diverse student body, provides the students with an affordable education and produces a strong earnings premium for those who attend.

What happens to those exclusive institutions that top the U.S. News list year after year—such as Harvard, Stanford and Yale—when measured on the Economic Mobility Index? They drop to 847th, 548th and 295th, respectively.

Instead, many Latino-serving institutions rise to the top of the Economic Mobility Index, including many in the California State University system. In fact, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal State Bakersfield are all in the top five out of 1,320 four-year institutions nationwide. The flagship University of California campuses did worse: UC Berkeley is ranked at 199, UCLA at 115.

In each of these three Cal State schools, more than 60% of the students come from lower-income backgrounds—and each enrolls more lower-income students than Harvard, Stanford and Yale combined. They also cost less than \$20,000 for a bachelor's degree and provide students an earnings premium of \$15,000 to \$20,000. This places them above 94% of institutions nationwide in terms of the return on investment they provide for this income group.

Are the U.S. News rankings a joke? I don't know, but they certainly don't prioritize the qualities of institutions that are best at making students better off. Instead, those traditional rankings reinforce the idea of prestige at schools that provide almost no opportunity for economic mobility.

If the purpose of higher education is to lift the next generation up, it's the institutions that are providing economic mobility that truly deliver on that promise. And it's about time we start recognizing them.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Europeans are headed for a painful chapter, but they are resilient

Europe is under greater pressure than at any time since World War II. An energy crisis precipitated by Russia's war on Ukraine has morphed into a broader economic calamity with implications for decades to come. The grand experiment of European solidarity is being tested.

The most immediate threat is the energy crisis. The bold and brave European Union sanctions on Russia, following its invasion of Ukraine in February, have become ever more punishing within the EU. Europe has banned imports of coal and announced a phaseout of Russian oil imports. In response Russia has closed its main gas pipeline, with its flows to Europe now at one-fifth of the prewar levels. To be sure, the sanctions are working. After recording a record budget surplus, due to energy prices spiking, Russian revenues have collapsed along with the virtual closure of its main export market.

The cost to Europe is nevertheless immense. Gas prices have increased tenfold, propelling inflation to 40-year highs, pushing European economies to the brink of recession, and dragging consumer and business confidence to record lows. Germany, which is the economic engine of Europe, has seen its massive heavy industrial industries threatened as they have been built on an umbilical dependence on cheap Russian gas.

With the approach of winter, sustained energy price inflation is likely to lead to ever-higher interest rates, slowing already tepid growth and placing intense downward pressure on the euro.

To tame inflation, the European Central Bank, like the Federal Reserve, is trying to slow growth through successive interest rate hikes, at the risk of provoking a recession. However, as is the case in the U.S. and the rest of the world, higher interest rates are proving to be an unhelpfully blunt tool. The cause of inflation is external to national economies and caused by the supply squeeze on Russian energy and food price increases. The primary way higher interest rates will reduce inflation is by sharply reducing wages.

The result is likely to be an unprecedented inflation-adjusted fall in incomes globally, exceeding the collapse that followed the 1970s oil price hikes and the U.S.-led interest rate hikes in the early '80s, or the financial crisis of 2008-09.

As working people around the world see their living standards eroded while the elites are enjoying soaring earnings and benefiting from lower taxes, their anger is likely to rise, as is their belief that the system is rigged against them. This populist revolt helped propel President Donald Trump into the White House, provided support for Brexit in Britain, and led to the rise of populist parties of the extreme right and left throughout Europe.

Economic crises and growing inequality undermine social cohesion, with lasting political consequences. In Italy, voters are likely on Sept. 25 to reject the competent technocratic government of Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank, with a coalition of right-wing parties united in their opposition to the European Union. This despite the fact that the EU has given Italy huge transfers, and in effect is underwriting Italian debt. The crisis is also likely to strengthen Poland's ruling Law and Justice party, which is stoking anti-EU and anti-German sentiment.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine compounds the deeper challenges facing Europe. With fertility at a remarkably low 1.5 births on average per adult women, well beneath the replacement level of around 2, and life expectancy at more than 80 years, a growing number of elderly people depend on a contracting working-age population.

The rapidly rising burden of social security, pensions and elderly care costs is falling on governments that even before COVID-19 and the current crisis were ill-prepared to withstand such a shift. The pandemic left a gaping hole in government budgets, which now is being deepened by the current crisis. As the pressures of taking care of an aging population grow, and raising more debt is an increasingly risky option, higher taxes are needed, as are reforms to raise productivity. These, however, are anathema for populist politicians depending on fragile coalitions.

Many of the forces besetting Europe are compounding one another: an energy crisis, inflation, economic inequality, a slow-moving demographic imbalance, fractious politics.

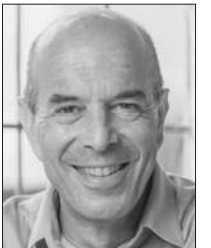
Even so, when one considers how the union has responded, there are more reasons for optimism than despair.

On the energy front, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has ac-

By **IAN GOLDIN**

Los Angeles Times

Ian Goldin, a professor of globalization and development at Oxford University, is the author of Rescue: From Global Crisis to a Better World. @ian_goldin



celerated the transition away from fossil fuels and reinforced Europe's commitment to halve its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. It has forced the European Union into a long-overdue energy union, doubled investments in solar and wind, and diversified supplies away from Russia.

That Europe has stood up to Russia despite the costs is a testament to its coming of age—despite the political and economic growing pains. COVID-19 led to the redoubling of efforts to create a fiscal union and greatly strengthened the European Commission's powers. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is proving to be an ever stiffer political and economic test, which so far Europe is passing.

Born out of a desperate desire to stop the perpetual cycle of wars between Germany and France, the European Union is proving to be among the most successful experiments of the 20th century. The voluntary integration of 27 European countries, so that people, goods, capital and services can move freely, and the giving up of sovereign power to a collective authority on defense, human rights and other previously inviolate national prerogatives is increasing the collective economic strength and political power of Europe. It is approaching par with the U.S. and China, which none of its member states could have done individually.

Europe has proved remarkably resilient and determined. Citizens' commitment to the principles of democracy and human rights remains a lodestar. Even as they endure acute sacrifices and falling incomes, Europeans appreciate the arc of history and know they and the world need their grand experiment to succeed.

Parents shaped COVID-19 policies more than politics

ATLANTA—The emerging snapshots of student learning from state exams and the National Assessment of Educational Progress confirm predictions that COVID-19 would create drastic academic gaps.

A new analysis of student performance by the Center for Reinventing Public Education describes the pandemic "as a wrecking ball for U.S. public education, bringing months of school closures, frantic moves to remote instruction, and trauma and isolation."

Most reactions to the dismal performance of 9-year-olds on NAEP in mathematics, released earlier this month by the U.S. Department of Education, feature the words "alarming," "crisis," and "disastrous." The department itself called the 5-point decline in reading and 7-point drop in mathematics between 2020 and 2022 "the largest average score decline in reading since 1990, and the first ever score decline in mathematics."

I am not surprised at the consternation over the scores. I am taken aback, though, by the framing of the scores as the failure of schools, especially those that remained closed longest, to put students first. Schools shut down to protect kids amid constantly shifting guidance from scientists and disease experts on how to combat the deadly virus.

We all have seen communities decimated by natural disasters, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, that somehow rally and rebuild. The difference with those disasters is that there was an established and clear path to recovery led by experts who understood what to do after a hurricane blew a town apart or a tornado flattened a subdivision. Emergency shelters pop up, the Red Cross rolls in and convoys of power trucks take to the highways.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no marked path out of the darkness, no experts with a proven playbook and no trucks packed with antidotes to the deadly virus. In March of 2020, the

coronavirus leapt from a minor news event in faraway places to a plague at our front doors, and none of us was prepared, least of all schools suddenly asked to produce not only virtual instruction, but also meals, and, in many places in Georgia, internet access.

COVID-19 is better compared to a war than a natural disaster when you look at the death toll of those on the front lines. The World Health Organization estimates that 115,500 health care workers around the world died of COVID-19 between January 2020 and May 2021. The virus overwhelmed and depleted supplies and staff at Georgia hospitals with desperate health care workers reusing masks, gloves and gowns.

Today, at a safe distance secured by new vaccines, we can pick apart what schools should have done better during the pandemic, but we can't assert that they should have known better.

No one knew, as shown by the deaths of more than 6.5 million people around the world. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 10.5 million children globally lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19. In the United States, the current estimate is that 225,600 children experienced the death of a parent or a custodial grandparent from the virus.

Yet, a national narrative is taking shape that school districts ignored the will of parents and remained virtual largely due to politics. Parents in Georgia districts that were remote the longest, including Clayton, Atlanta, Decatur and DeKalb, voiced many reservations about their children returning to classrooms. Most of these districts serve largely Black families, who had a higher proportion of family members or neighbors sickened and killed by the virus.

"Because so many of our families were front line, they were not willing for our students to come back overall," Clayton County Superintendent Morcease Beasley told The Atlanta Jour-

By **MAUREEN DOWNEY**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution








nal-Constitution. "As a community, we basically made a decision that safety would be prioritized over everything else, which meant that students learned virtually."

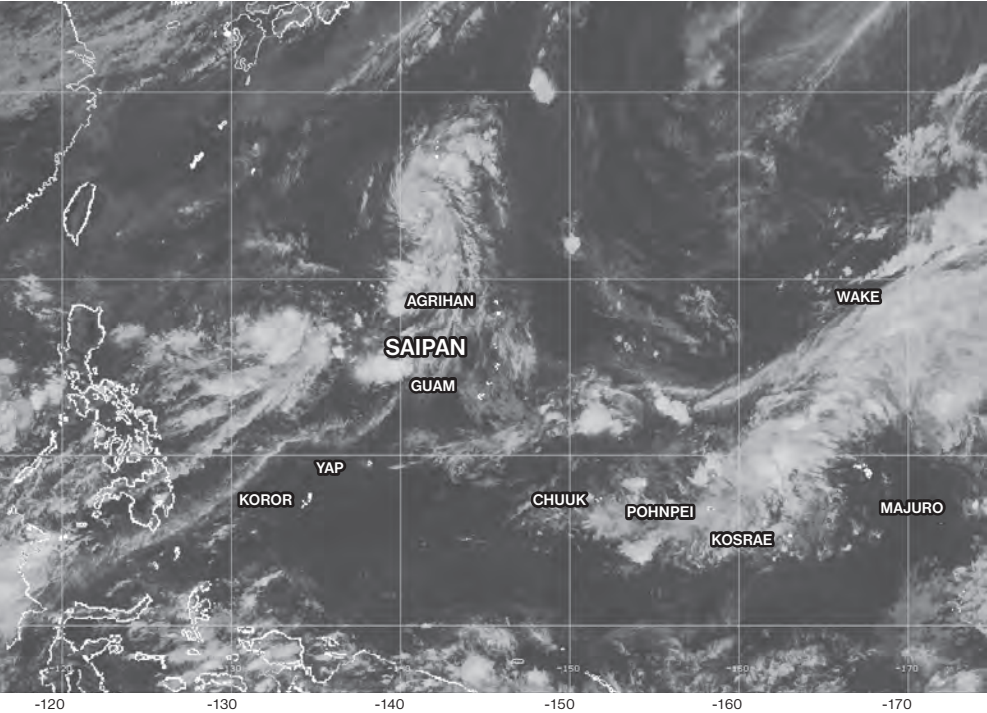
It was a vocal parent base of CDC researchers, physicians and university employees that influenced the City Schools of Decatur to offer extended hybrid instruction. That influence also contributed to Decatur's decision to impose a COVID-19 vaccine mandate and later a booster requirement on its school staff, which earned the high-performing district a rebuke from Gov. Brian Kemp.

Decatur, Clayton and other metro districts didn't discount parents in their COVID-19 policies; they deferred to them in many instances.

"It's an easy finger to point in hindsight while conveniently forgetting the 95 million COVID cases and 1 million-plus deaths in the U.S.—1 dead out of every 330 people," said University of Georgia professor emeritus of education Peter Smagorinsky. "As if the best plan would be to just keep sending people into death traps, which presumably puts children first—in the grave. Maybe, they think we shouldn't evacuate for raging fires and floods, either, because it's the evacuation that's so disruptive."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.		Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		Occasional showers. Cloudy	
88°	77°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	85°	80°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:09 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. An area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms were located to the southeast of the local waters. Northwest winds prevail across the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:45 AM	3:59 PM	-
Friday	3:37 AM	4:39 PM	-
Saturday	4:28 AM	5:17 PM	-
Sunday	5:18 AM	5:54 PM	-
Monday	6:08 AM	6:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	63° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	81° / 54°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	69° / 53°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	80° / 71°	
Osaka	Showers	81° / 73°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 49°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	77° / 65°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°	
Salem	Sunny	93° / 68°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	70° / 57°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	78° / 58°	
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 67°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	87° / 70°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:22 AM	High Tide	1.53	
11:30 AM	Low Tide	0.15	
6:38 PM	High Tide	1.76	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-NARITA				NARITA-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
				TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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UOG, Bank of Hawai‘i plant 200 trees to prevent soil erosion



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Bank of Hawai‘i Foundation presented a \$10,000 donation to the University of Guam at a tree planting event on Aug. 20 at the Ugum watershed in Inalåhan. The funds will go toward the Guam Restoration of Watersheds initiative under the UOG Sea Grant program.

More than 70 volunteers from the University of Guam and Bank of Hawai‘i teamed up last month to combat soil erosion and protect Guam’s watersheds. Led by the Guam Restoration of Watersheds initiative under the UOG Sea Grant program and in partnership

with Guam Green Growth, the volunteers planted 200 trees at the Ugum restoration site in Inalåhan on Aug. 20. The BOH Foundation donated \$10,000 to the GROW initiative through the UOG Endowment Foundation which made the planting of the 200

trees possible. “It is important for Bank of Hawai‘i to invest into the communities that have brought us to where we are today,” said BOH Foundation president Momi Akimseu. “So, in celebration of our 125th anniversary, we are investing and working with local community organizations – like the University of Guam’s [GROW initiative] – to plant trees to restore and protect the natural resources and beauty of our island homes.” The newly planted trees will help prevent accelerated land erosion and subsequent

sedimentation on downstream coral reefs caused by poor land use practices. “We’re really happy to have the support of Bank of Hawai‘i to plant these very special trees, which will go a long way to creating and reforesting this area,” said Austin Shelton, director of UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant. The GROW team will fertilize the trees quarterly and do site maintenance visits to control any competing weeds or invasive species. Additionally, each tree is connected to GPS tracking so volunteers can track the trees’ progress over the years and see their lasting contribution. For more information about the GROW initiative, contact Kyle Mandapat at (671) 735-5631 or mandapatk@triton.uog.edu. For any companies or individuals interested in donating to support the University of Guam, please contact the University of Guam Endowment Foundation at (671) 735-2957 or info@uogendowment.org, or visit give.uog.edu for more information. **(PR)**

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-026
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 17TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
“COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT APPLICATION”
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/NCDB-027
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 17TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
“NCD-CHW 2022 PROGRAM EVALUATION”
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BUREAU (NCDB)
RFP22-CHCC/NCDB-028
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 27TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
“NCD/CBH AND RISK FACTOR HYBRID SURVEY”
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OPENING DATE: September 22, 2022 CLOSING DATE: October 07, 2022 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2022-032	1- CDBG-DR Accountant	\$25,000.00- \$30,000.00 -per annum-UNGRADED
2022-033	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Tinian	\$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 - per annum-UNGRADED
2022-034	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Saipan	\$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 - per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu, Website: www.marianas.edu
INVITATION FOR BIDS
JANITORIAL SERVICES
NMC IFB 22-0006
Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Janitorial, Housekeeping and Cleaning Services for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Thursday, August 25, 2022 between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 2:00 p.m., September 26, 2022, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB email to Anita Camacho (ppmo@marianas.edu). This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittal shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Friday, September 23, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. in the CPA Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (between the Arrival and Departure Terminals). The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (August 25, 2022)

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

III. **SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS:**
1. Supplemental Budget Request: Employee Discretionary Compensation

IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)**

V. **MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. See link below.

Zoom link: Meeting ID: 837 9205 4697 Passcode: 435471

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

September 21, 2022

Business

High inflation in sight, Fed to signal more rate hikes ahead

WASHINGTON (AP)—Last month, when Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell spoke at an economic conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, he issued a blunt warning: The Fed's drive to curb inflation by aggressively raising interest rates, he said, would "bring some pain" for Americans.

When the Fed ends its latest meeting Wednesday and Powell holds a news conference, Americans will likely get a better idea of how much pain could be in store.

The central bank is expected to raise its key short-term rate by a substantial three-quarters of a point for the third consecutive time. Another hike that large would boost its benchmark rate—which affects many consumer and business loans—to a range of 3% to 3.25%, the highest level in 14 years.

Many Fed watchers, though, will be paying particular attention to Powell's words at a news conference afterward. His remarks will be parsed for any hint of whether the Fed expects to moderate its rate hikes in the coming months—or instead to continue tighten-

ing credit significantly until it's convinced that inflation is on its way down.

In a further sign of the Fed's deepening concern about inflation, it will also likely signal Wednesday that it plans to raise rates much higher by year's end than it had forecast three months ago—and to keep them higher for longer. Economists expect Fed officials to forecast that their key rate could go as high as 4% before the new year. They're also likely to signal additional hikes in 2023, perhaps to as high as roughly 4.5%.

Short-term rates at that level would make a recession likelier next year by sharply raising the costs of mortgages, car loans and business loans. The Fed intends those higher borrowing costs to slow growth by cooling a still-robust job market to cap wage growth and other inflation pressures. Yet the risk is growing that the Fed may weaken the economy so much as to cause a downturn that would produce heavy job losses.

The economy hasn't seen rates as high as the Fed is pro-

jecting since before the 2008 financial crisis. Last week, the average fixed mortgage rate topped 6%, its highest point in 14 years. Credit card borrowing costs have reached their highest level since 1996, according to Bankrate.com.

Powell and other Fed officials still say the Fed's goal is to achieve a "soft landing," by which they would slow the economy enough to tame inflation but not so much as to trigger a recession.

By last week, though, that goal appeared further out of reach after the government reported that inflation over the past year was a painful 8.3%. Even worse, so-called core prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs, rose much faster than expected.

The inflation report also documented just how broadly inflation has spread through the economy, complicating the Fed's task. Inflation now appears increasingly fueled by higher wages and by consumers' steady desire to spend and less by the supply shortages that had bedeviled the economy during the pandemic recession.

the Sorcerer's Stone" and such public domain novels as Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" and Jane Austen's "Persuasion." "We've always believed that the potential for audio is limitless, and have been saying for a while now that our ambition is to be the complete package for everyone's listening needs," Nir Zicherman, Spotify's vice president and global head of audiobooks and Gated Content, said Tuesday. "Audiobooks are next to come into the picture because we see a substantial untapped market: while audiobooks represent just a 6-7% share of the wider book market, the category is growing by 20% year over year."

NTSB wants all new vehicles to check drivers for alcohol use

DETROIT (AP)—The National Transportation Safety Board is recommending that all new vehicles in the U.S. be equipped with blood alcohol monitoring systems that can stop an intoxicated person from driving. The recommendation, if enacted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, could reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes, one of the biggest causes of highway deaths in the U.S. The new push to make roads safer was included in a report released Tuesday about a horrific crash last year in which a drunk driver collided head-on with another vehicle near Fresno, California, killing both adult drivers and seven children. NHTSA said this week that roadway deaths in the U.S. are at crisis levels. Nearly 43,000 people were killed last year, the greatest number in 16 years, as Americans returned to roads after pandemic stay-at-home orders.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ADB cuts forecasts to reflect weakening outlook

The Asian Development Bank has downgraded its forecasts for growth in the region, citing the war in Ukraine, rising interest rates to combat decades-high inflation, and China's slowing economy. The Manila, Philippines-based lending agency revised its estimate for growth in developing Asian economies to 4.3%, down from an earlier forecast of 5.2%. Growth in 2023 was cut to 4.9% from 5.3% in the revised regional outlook released Wednesday. ADB economists said that for the first time in three decades, other developing Asian economies would grow faster than China's. The updated outlook forecast that the world's second-largest economy would expand at a 3.3% annual pace this year, down from 8.1% in 2021 and far below the ADB's April estimate of a 5.0% expansion. The setback represents a long-time slowing of China's growth coupled with disruptions from outbreaks of COVID-19 and lockdowns and other measures to fight the virus. (AP)

Spotify launches audiobook store with some 300,000 titles

NEW YORK (AP)—The expanding audio books market has a major new retailer: Spotify. On Tuesday, the music streaming service announced its long-rumored audiobook initiative, launching a store that includes more than 300,000 titles, including such popular works as Delia Owens' "Where the Crawdads Sing," Michelle Obama's "Becoming" and Colleen Hoover's "It Ends With Us." Spotify has previously offered audio books on a limited basis, including J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and

Nation

US: 48 exploited the pandemic to steal \$250M from food program

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—United States authorities charged 48 people in Minnesota with conspiracy and other counts in what they said Tuesday was the largest pandemic-related fraud scheme yet, stealing \$250 million from a federal program that provides meals to low-income children.

Federal prosecutors say the defendants created companies that claimed to be offering food to tens of thousands of children across Minnesota, then sought re-

imbursement for those meals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food nutrition programs. Prosecutors say few meals were actually served, and the defendants used the money to buy luxury cars, property and jewelry.

"This \$250 million is the floor," Andy Luger, the U.S. attorney for Minnesota, said at a news conference. "Our investigation continues."

Many of the companies that claimed to be serving food were sponsored by a nonprofit called Feeding Our

Future, which submitted the companies' claims for reimbursement. Feeding Our Future's founder and executive director, Aimee Bock, was among those indicted, and authorities say she and others in her organization submitted the fraudulent claims for reimbursement and received kickbacks.

Bock's attorney, Kenneth Udoibok, said the indictment "doesn't indicate guilt or innocence." He said he wouldn't comment further until seeing the indictment.

Biden to call Russian war an 'affront to UN's charter'

NEW YORK (AP)—President Joe Biden is ready to make the case to world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly that Russia's "naked aggression" in Ukraine is an affront to the heart of what the international body stands for as he looks to rally allies to stand firm in backing the Ukrainian resistance.

Biden, during his time at the U.N. General Assembly, also planned to meet Wednesday with new British Prime Minister Liz Truss, announce a global food security initiative and press allies to meet an \$18 billion

target to replenish the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

But White House officials say the crux of the president's visit to the U.N. this year would be a full-throated condemnation of Russia as its brutal war nears the seven-month mark.

"He'll offer a firm rebuke of Russia's unjust war in Ukraine and make a call to the world to continue to stand against the naked ag-



Biden

gression that we've seen these past several months," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in previewing the president's address. "He will underscore the importance of strengthening the United Nations and reaffirm core tenets of its charter at a time when a permanent member of the Security Council has struck at the very heart of the charter by challenging the principle of territorial integrity and sovereignty."

Parents besiege high school after false shooting call

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Alarmed parents converged on a Texas high school Tuesday after a classroom shooting report that ultimately proved to be false.

The siege at Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio began about 1 p.m. Tuesday after police received a call of a possible shooting in progress at the school, according to a police statement. The school was placed on lockdown as police entered and began clearing the campus but found no evidence of an active threat or shooting.

"Our department and San Antonio Police Department established there was no shooting, but then we had to do a methodical search room by room with our strike teams," said Chief Johnny Reyes of the San Antonio Independent School District police. "We went to the place where they said the shooting had occurred and we were able to quickly establish that no shooting had happened."

Instead, some students



Parents gather outside of Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio, after the school went into lockdown on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022.

AP

were found to have had an altercation, but they denied having or displaying a weapon at any point, Reyes said.

But frightened students already had made alarming telephone calls to their parents, who descended en masse on the school where 29 school district officers and 58 city police officers were on hand.

One man shoved his fist through a window in an effort to gain entry to the school, lacerating his arm. Police applied a tourniquet to that arm. Others were handcuffed and detained after physically

struggling with officers, but there were no immediate reports of arrests.

The scare was the latest in a wave of such incidents since the May 24 mass shooting at a Uvalde, Texas, elementary school that killed 19 children and two teachers. A similar panic occurred at Heights High School in Houston on Sept. 13 after the school received a threat. Threats last week also prompted school shutdowns at districts near Austin and Houston and in California, Massachusetts, Florida, Arkansas, Oregon, Illinois, Kansas and Oklahoma.

World

Man sets himself on fire in apparent protest of Abe funeral



AP

Police and firefighters inspect the scene where a man is reported to set himself on fire, near the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022.

TOKYO (AP)—A man set himself on fire near the Japanese prime minister's office in Tokyo early Wednesday in apparent protest against the state funeral planned next week for former leader Shinzo Abe, officials and media reports said.

The man, believed to be in his 70s, sustained burns on large parts of his body but was conscious and told police

that he set himself on fire after pouring oil over himself, Kyodo News agency reported.

A note apparently written by the man was found with him that said, "Personally, I am absolutely against" Abe's funeral, Kyodo reported.

A Tokyo Fire Department official confirmed a man set himself afire on the street in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki government dis-

trict and that he was alive when he was taken to a hospital by ambulance, but declined to give further details, including the man's identity, motive or condition, citing the sensitivity of what was a police matter.

Tokyo police refused to comment, including on a report that a police officer was caught in the fire.

The suspected immolation underscores a growing wave

of protests against the funeral for Abe, who was one of the most divisive leaders in post-war Japanese politics because of his revisionist view of wartime history, security policies and his high-handed approach and cronyism, which were often criticized as autocratic. More protests are expected in coming days, including the day of the funeral next week.

The incident also is an embar-

rassment for Japanese police, who have stepped up security for an event expected to be attended by about 6,000 people, including U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and other dignitaries.

Japanese police were also partly blamed for insufficient protection of Abe, who was shot to death by a gunman who approached him from behind as he was giving a campaign speech outdoors in July.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is in New York for the annual U.N. General Assembly meeting of world leaders. He gave a speech Tuesday expressing disappointment over the Security Council's failure to respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine because of Russia's permanent veto and called for reforms that would allow the U.N. to better defend global peace and order.

WORLD BRIEFS

Man arrested in Hong Kong after paying tribute to queen

HONG KONG (AP)—A man who paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II near the British Consulate in Hong Kong was arrested for alleged sedition. Police said the 43-year-old man was detained late Monday near the consulate, where dozens of people had gathered to remember the late monarch. Elizabeth was sovereign in the city when it was a British colony before its handover to Chinese rule in 1997. Local media reports said the detained man had stood outside the consulate playing songs on a harmonica including "Glory to Hong Kong," the anthem of pro-democracy protests that rocked the city in 2019. Video shared on social media showed the crowd singing along as the man played.

Philippines leader: Rich countries have put poorest at risk

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The world's richest people have put its poorest at risk, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. charged Tuesday at the United Nations, pushing for action on inequality, nuclear weapons and climate change. Addressing the U.N. General Assembly for the first time since taking office in June, Marcos said "the time for talk about 'if' and 'when' has long since passed" on climate change, and he called on industrialized countries to fulfill obligations to

cut greenhouse gases and aid developing countries. "The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most," Marcos said. "This injustice must be corrected and those who need to do more must act now." Marcos returned to the theme of the rich-poor divide at multiple points throughout his speech, noting ballooning debt burdens, lack of Internet access and lopsided impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Official: Canada likely to drop vaccine requirement to enter

TORONTO (AP)—Canada will likely drop the vaccine requirement for people who enter Canada by the end of September, an official familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Canada, like the United States, requires foreign nationals to be vaccinated when entering the country. It is not immediately known whether the U.S. will make a similar move by Sept. 30. Unvaccinated travelers who are allowed to enter Canada are currently subject to mandatory arrival tests and a 14-day quarantine. The official said that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau needs to give final sign off on it but that the government will likely be dropping the requirement as well as ending random COVID-19 testing at airports. Filling out information in the unpopular ArriveCan app will also no longer be required.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Rita Quitano Camacho

Lovingly known as "Ritan Vidad"
February 01, 1951 – September 12, 2022

In her New Life, Rita is greeted at the heavenly gate by her:

Parents: †Vidal Acosta and
†Justa Roberto Quitano Camacho
Reared Parents: †Pedro Dela Torres
and Elena Roberto Quitano Sablan
Grandparents: †Mariano Palacios
and †Valeriana Acosta Palacios
†Manuel Concepcion and †Rita Roberto Quitano
Brother and In-Law: †Dr. Manuel Quitano Sablan,
†Ernest Mangarero Sablan
Nephews: †Eric Ignacio Camacho Sablan,
†Martin Basa Camacho,
and †Joseph Cepeda Camacho
Niece: †Verena Tudela Cabrera

Her generous spirit, kind, and giving heart will forever be cherished by her brothers and sisters:

-Magdalena Barcinas Sablan, and family
-Margaret Sablan McQuay, and family
-Elizabeth Camacho Sablan, and family
-Vicente Quitano and Erica Vivas Camacho, and family
-George Quitano Camacho and Lydia Santos Sablan, and family
-Juan Quitano and Luisa Cepeda Camacho, and family
-Ronald Camacho and Rosie Quidachay Roberto, and family
-Ellen Quitano Camacho and Stanley Techur
-Manuel Quitano Camacho, and family
-Emerita Quitano Camacho

She will also be dearly missed by her many aunties, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives, and dear friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose soul is celebrated at 6:00am at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral and Kristo Rai Parish Church.

Rita will be with us for the last time on Friday, September 23, 2022. Responso and public viewing will commence at 8:00am to 10:00am at Kristo Rai Parish Church followed by Mass of Christian Burial.

Rite of Committal will be held at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Please Join us in Prayers. Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and May God bless us all!

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF
†VIDAL ACOSTA AND †JUSTA QUITANO CAMACHO



Environment

Marshall Islands head: We must tame 'climate change monster'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—It was 31 years ago when the Marshall Islands' first president, Amata Kabua, appeared before the U.N. General Assembly to sound the alarm over global warming. Today, his

son—current president David Kabua—is still sounding the alarm, which has only gotten more dire.

Speaking to world leaders gathered at the high-level leaders' meeting Tuesday,

the younger Kabua described the longstanding fight to keep his low-lying island nation above water.

"Today, we renew our call to the world to declare total war on this century's greatest

challenge—the climate change monster," he said.

Kabua bemoaned the fact that after so many years, "the world has failed to break our addiction to fossil fuels."

"We are not investing

enough in life-saving adaptation, particularly for small island states," he said.

He urged world leaders to drastically increase renewable energy while also taking on sectors that rely on fossil fuels, including aviation and shipping. He pointed to the



Kabua

Marshall Islands' carbon levy proposal for international shipping that he says "will drive the transition to zero emission shipping, channeling resources from polluters to the most vulnerable."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has likewise encouraged going after the world's largest polluters. During his opening remarks to the assembly on Tuesday, he pushed for richer countries to tax the profits of energy companies and redirect the funds to both "countries suffering loss and damage caused by the climate crisis" and those struggling with the rising cost of living.

Kabua, along with the leaders of Tuvalu and Kiribati, plan to launch the Rising Nations Initiative on Wednesday to

press for innovative efforts among Pacific atoll island countries to combat climate change.

Also on Tuesday, Kabua described his growing concerns over nuclear weapons testing and detonation, calling the Marshall Islands "ground zero for the testing of the 67 nuclear and thermonuclear weapons for 12 years during the U.N.-U.S.-administered trusteeship era."

"The exposure of our people and land has created impacts that have lasted – and will last – for generations," Kabua said. "These impacts to our human rights, land, culture, health and lives, are burdens that no other nation or country should ever have to bear."

■ ■ ■

Pia Sarkar, a Philadelphia-based journalist for The Associated Press, is on assignment covering the U.N. General Assembly. Follow her on Twitter at http://twitter.com/PiaSarkar_TK and for more AP coverage of the U.N. General Assembly, visit <https://apnews.com/hub/united-nations-general-assembly>

14 dead sperm whales found beached on Australian island

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian wildlife authorities are investigating the deaths of 14 young sperm whales that were found beached on an island off of the southeastern coast, officials said Tuesday.

The whales were discovered Monday afternoon on King Island, part of the state of Tasmania in the Bass Strait between Melbourne and Tasmania's northern coast, the state Department of Natural Resources and Environment said in a statement.

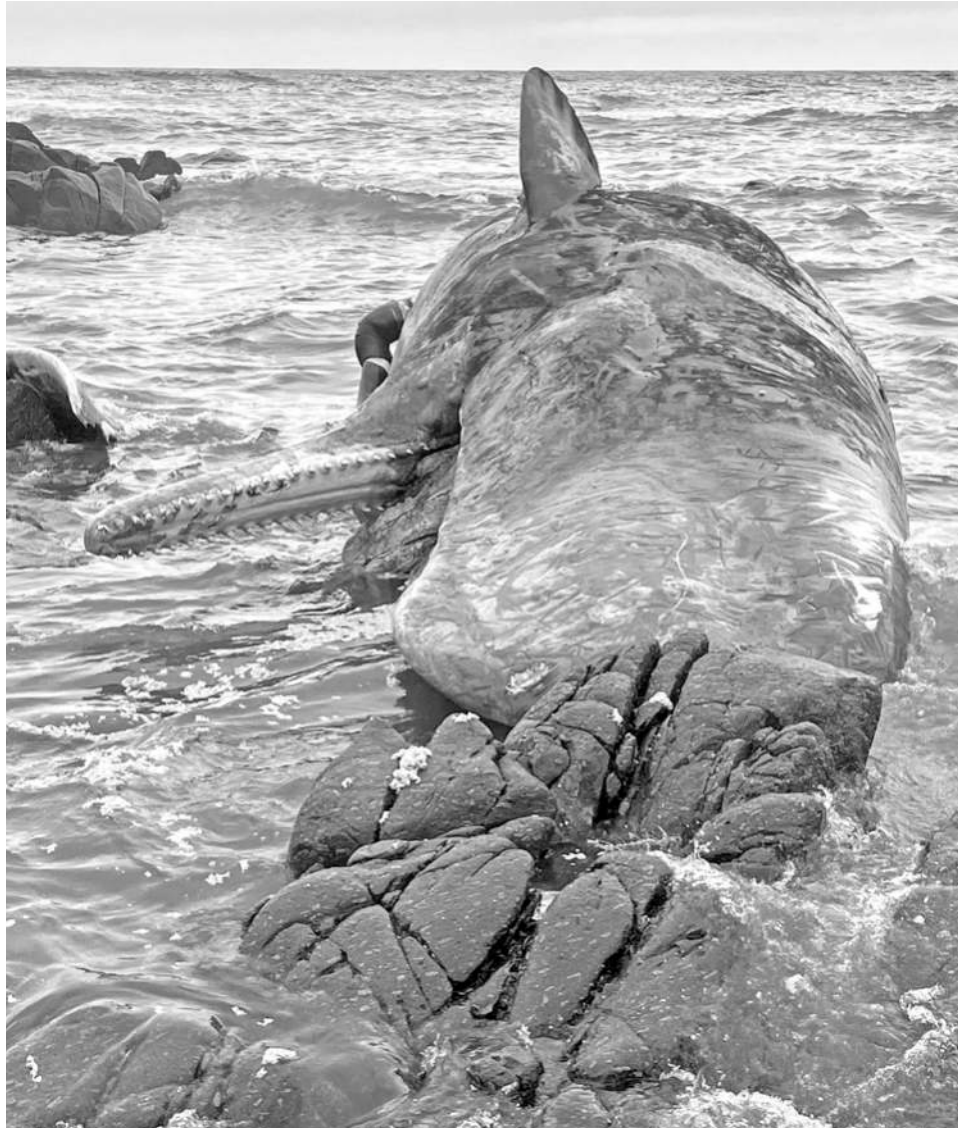
A government Marine Conservation Program team traveled to the island Tuesday and was conducting necropsies of the whales to try to determine their cause of death.

Photos distributed by the department showed whales lying on their sides in shallow water on the rocky shore of the island.

Authorities were planning to conduct an aerial survey to determine whether there were any other whales in the area.

The department said it is not unusual for sperm whales to be sighted in Tasmania and the area where they were discovered on the beach was within their normal range and habitat.

"While further inquiries are yet to be carried out, it is possible the whales were part of the same bachelor pod — a group of younger male sperm whales associating together after leaving the maternal group," the Environment Department said.



AP

One of 14 dead sperm whales lies washed up on a beach at King Island, north of Tasmania, Australia, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022.

In the meantime, surfers and swimmers were being warned to avoid the immediate area in case the corpses of the whales attract sharks to

the waters nearby.

Two years ago, about 470 long-finned pilot whales were found beached on sandbars off of Tasmania's west coast

in the largest mass-stranding on record in Australia.

After a weeklong effort, 111 of those whales were rescued but the rest died.

Environment groups attack EU's green label for gas, nuclear

BRUSSELS (AP) —A dozen environmental groups are starting legal challenges against the European Union's executive branch in a bid to stop the inclusion of natural gas and nuclear power generation in the bloc's list of sustainable activities.

European Union lawmakers in July voted to add natural gas and nuclear to the list, backing a proposal from the European Commission that has been drawing fierce criticism and accusations of greenwashing.

ClientEarth, WWF's European Policy Office, Transport & Environment (T&E), and BUND said on Monday that they have asked for an inter-

nal review of the decision to include gas. The European Commission has up to 22 weeks to reply and the groups say they will take the action to the Court of Justice of the EU if the executive arm refuses to reconsider its move.

They said that "gas is a potent fossil fuel that threatens European energy security and has led to sky-high energy prices across Europe."

The groups argue that giving gas a sustainable label clashes with other EU laws and does not respect the EU's commitments and obligations under the 2015 Paris accord's target for limiting global warming.

Separately, eight Greenpeace organizations in Europe have taken action over the inclusion in the so-called taxonomy delegated act of both fossil gas and nuclear energy. They, too, have sent a request for internal review to the Commission, arguing that their inclusion is a breach of the taxonomy regulation.

The green labeling system from the European Commission defines what qualifies as an investment in sustainable energy. The EU's executive arm did not initially include gas and nuclear and created divisions among member countries when it proposed their addition ear-

lier this year.

The question of nuclear power has divided environmentalists, energy experts and governments for years, with some arguing it's an important source of energy because it's produced with no emissions and thus "clean," while others say the risks of nuclear reactions are too great and infrastructure is slow and costly to build. Liquid natural gas, clearly a fossil fuel, is roundly criticized in environmental circles.

Under certain conditions, gas and nuclear energy will now be part of the mix, making it easier for private investors to inject money into both.

Midwestern partnership backs hydrogen as clean energy source

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Seven Midwestern states are teaming up to accelerate the development of hydrogen as a clean-energy alternative for automobiles and factories that rely largely on climate-warming fossil fuels, governors said Monday.

The partnership includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, whose economies are dominated by agriculture and heavy industry such as steel and automobile manufacturing.

"The Midwest will continue leading the future of mobility and energy innovation and has enormous potential for transformative hydrogen investments," Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said.

Hydrogen is a colorless, odorless gas that already powers some cars, trucks, buses and trains. But a shortage of fueling stations limits their appeal. Some environmentalists are skeptical because most commercially produced hydrogen in the U.S. comes from natural gas, which emits greenhouse pollutants carbon dioxide and methane.

But hydrogen can be derived using electric currents from

wind, solar or other means that produce few if any emissions contributing to global warming. Such "clean hydrogen" releases only water as a byproduct when used in a fuel cell.

"We don't have to choose between clean energy and clean air and creating good-paying jobs and a strong economy—we can do both," Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers said.

The federal infrastructure law enacted last year included \$8 billion for the U.S. Department of Energy to fund regional "hubs" that would step up clean hydrogen production and distribution.

Climate legislation that President Joe Biden signed last month offers a tax credit intended to make clean hydrogen more competitive.

Those measures "made it almost certain that clean hydrogen development will become a major alternative for producing energy both in the Midwest and nationally," said Zachary Kolodin, Michigan's chief infrastructure officer.

States in the Rocky Mountains and the Deep South announced regional associations earlier this year. Another was proposed for the Los Angeles Basin in California.

Life & Style

Q&A: James Cameron on the return of 'Avatar'

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Thirteen years after James Cameron plunged moviegoers into the cosmic world of "Avatar," the lush, distant moon of Pandora is finally orbiting back into view.

Cameron's "Avatar" industrial complex has been whirling in high gear for some time; production on the upcoming sequel, "Avatar: The Way of Water," began back in 2017. But after shuffling through half a decade's worth of release dates, Cameron's science-fiction epic is poised to again blanket movie screens and transport willing travelers back, in 3-D, to the land of the Na'vi.

For even the visionary filmmaker of "Titanic" and "The Terminator," the relaunch of "Avatar" is, as Cameron said in a recent interview from Wellington, New Zealand, "a big bet." A third "Avatar" is already in post-production, and production has begun on a fourth. The record-breaking \$2.8 billion in box office that "Avatar" grossed made the coming "Avatar" armada a far-from-risky wager. But a lot has changed since the original's release, when Netflix was still renting DVDs by mail and Cameron was working for 20th Century Fox.

To whet moviegoers' appetites ahead of the Dec. 16 debut of the three-hour "Avatar: The Way of Water"—and remind them of a movie world they may have lost touch with—the Walt Disney Co. on Friday will rerelease "Avatar" in a remastered, 4K, HDR version that he says is "better than it's

ever looked."

It's an opening salvo in Cameron's ambitious plan to sketch a yet-grander sci-fi saga, and to again conjure a cinematic experience, as he says, "that you simply cannot have in the home." Taking a break from all the "Avatar" juggling, Cameron talked re-watching the original, his expectation for "The Way of Water" and why he nearly quit the "Avatar" business.

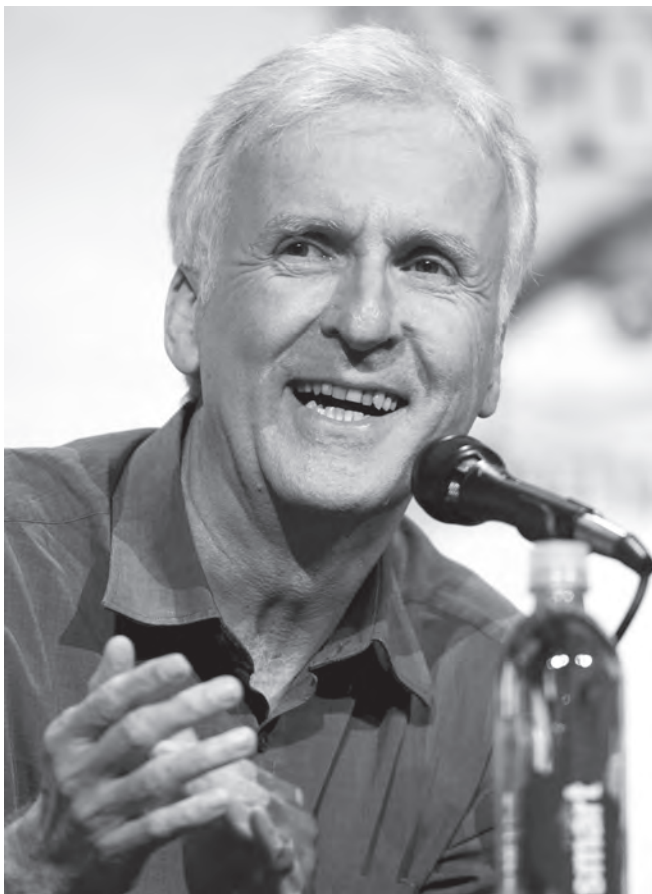
Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Does "Avatar" seem like a long time ago to you?

CAMERON: It feels like yesterday at times and then obviously it feels like more than a decade other times. The time has passed quickly. I've been doing all sorts of interesting things. Deep ocean research. Building submersibles. Writing four epic movies. Now finishing up "Avatar 2" and we're mid-process in post on "Avatar 3." So "Avatar" has never been far from my mind. I constantly go back to it, obviously in the remaster process making it better than it's ever looked before. I'm kind of just living on Pandora right now.

AP: When you went back to watch "Avatar," how did it look to you?

CAMERON: I see a lot of good work by a lot of good people in terms of the production design, the visual effects, the groundbreaking strides that were made at that time in capturing the performances of the actors, and the great work of the actors. It was tough to live up to. We had set the bar very high for ourselves back then and we had to live up to that bar this time with the new films. I remind our



Cameron

VFX team all the time: "Look at the bugs in the forest in the first movie. We had better bugs!"

AP: Moviegoing rebounded this summer but there's been a late-summer lull that the "Avatar" re-release may help jumpstart. How do you see the health of theatrical right now?

CAMERON: It's shown resiliency that I don't think we expected. The pandemic, quite rightly, scared everybody. There was a period of time where you were basically risking your life to go to the movies. People did it anyway. Now, we feel like we're past the hump or at least it's a manageable prob-

lem. We're seeing a resurgence back in cinemas. It's not where we were before. Streaming has taken a bite. The pandemic has taken a bite. We're probably down 20, 25% from where we were pre-pandemic. I think it's going to be a very long tail on this thing before we're back to where we were before. It's incumbent on us to double down on showmanship.

AP: Over the years, some have argued that "Avatar," despite its stature as the highest grossing film of all time, hasn't stuck in the culture the way you'd expect. Do those arguments irk you?

CAMERON: I think it's true for a specific reason, which is that we didn't immediately follow it up with another film in two or three years, and another film in two or three years. We didn't play the Marvel game. We're playing a longer game here. "Avatar" isn't going anywhere, it just didn't follow up with a continuous barrage to keep it in the public eye and the public consciousness, which is what you have to do. Taking a lesson from that, we basically architected four sequels so that if "Avatar 2" is successful, we can follow it up with a regular cadence—two years, maybe three years at the most between "3" and "4." It will be in the public consciousness more and more regularly, but only if people embrace "Avatar 2."

AP: Your films have grossed more than \$6 billion. I imagine you're not a filmmaker who gets nervous before opening a movie.

CAMERON: You bet I do. Anyone who says they don't get nervous before a movie drops is a lying son of a (expletive).

AP: And there is an awful lot riding on "The Way of Water."

CAMERON: Yeah, it's a big play. It's a big bet. And we won't know where we are until the second or third weekend. The success of the first film—we had a pretty good opening at \$75 million. But openings are dwarfing that by factors of two or even three these days. Even if we have a stellar opening, we won't really know where we are for a couple weeks because it was the return visits on the first one. It was people wanting to go share. If we get that again, we'll probably be on solid ground.

AP: I think the odds are in

your favor.

CAMERON: Nobody knows. The market has changed. Twenty-five percent could be our entire margin. It's one thing to make a lot of money, it's another thing to actually make a profit. We're not going to keep making movies that lose money even though they look good and make a ton of money. This is a wait-and-see, let's-put-it-out-there-and-see-if-people-embrace-it kind of situation.

AP: "Avatar" was especially rich in an ecological subtext. In the 13 years since, much has only gone worse for the climate and the health of the planet. How much was that on your mind making the sequels?

CAMERON: Very much so, even to the extent that I very strongly debated with myself and discussed with my wife whether I should stop filmmaking and work on the sustainability issues. But we managed to be able to do that in parallel with the filmmaking process. We're doing all of our sustainability efforts—I don't want to say as a side hustle, but in parallel. I put as much effort into that as I do the filmmaking.

That said, the new "Avatar" films aren't any more like a lecture on climate or environmentalism than the first one was. The first one was an adventure. It captured you at the level of character, at a level of storytelling. I think subtext is a useful way of looking at it. It's there but it's not what's driving the story. And we kept that in mind with the new films. Yes, "Avatar: The Way of Water" is about the oceans and our relationship with the oceans and the animals that live in it. But it's driven by character.

Granddaughter disturbed by grandmother's early work

DEAR ABBY: My grandma died when I was 7. She was my favorite person, and I adored her. She played with me when no one else had the time, taught me how to bake, told me stories and didn't care that I was playing in the dishwasher when she was trying to wash dishes.

I always knew that before she married Grandpa, she had worked as a cook in an American Indian boarding school in the U.S. I now know how atrocious, evil and disgusting those places were. They practiced government- and church-condoned cultural genocide and were places where children were sexually and emotionally abused.

Although I love my grandma, I'm embarrassed, angry and disgusted that she worked in one. If it was church-affiliated, I know she would have overlooked any abuse, even if she saw the act. How can I get past my anger and hurt at someone for something they did a lifetime ago? She has been dead more than 40 years.

HURT GRANDDAUGHTER

DEAR HURT: From your description, your grandmother was a loving, caring, hardworking woman who was trying to feed (and possibly nurture) the children living in the boarding school. It may have been the only job she could find to support herself. While terrible things happened there, they were not her fault.

Child abuse isn't restricted to any one religion. Today, many religious people in many denominations cannot bring

themselves to believe there is such evil among them. If your grandmother had shortcomings, forgive her for them and move on with your life. Dwelling on these negative feelings for someone who was good to you and is long gone isn't healthy for you.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife died two years ago. I met a woman shortly afterward. We dated for a year, shared the same hobbies and were very intimate. We were inseparable. Now, after a year of marriage, we don't do anything together, and she has put on 30 pounds. Her three girls, who I was led to believe were independent at ages 20, 22 and 24, are actually supported in part by her. Her 15-year-old son lives with us and just stays in his room playing on his computer. He gets food delivered and does no chores.

I make \$250k a year. She works and earns about \$50k, and I give her an allowance to help pay for her son's private school and whatever else she wants.

It's obvious that I'm not No. 1 in her life. Since she just returned from a girls weekend (that I funded), I may not even be No. 2. My friends say I should run, that she's a gold digger who took advantage of me. I can't believe I was so wrong, and I'm always giving her "one more chance." Also, if I come near her cellphone, she goes crazy. As I write this, it seems obvious what's going on. Am I being taken advantage of in a big way? Could I be missing something?

RANKING LOW IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR RANKING: Not knowing your wife, I can't judge for you whether she's a gold digger. Of this I am certain, however: You are being taken advantage of no more than you want to be. If you have any desire to save this marriage, tell your wife you are unhappy and offer her the option of counseling. If she refuses, consult an attorney and thank your lucky stars that your marriage has been a short one.

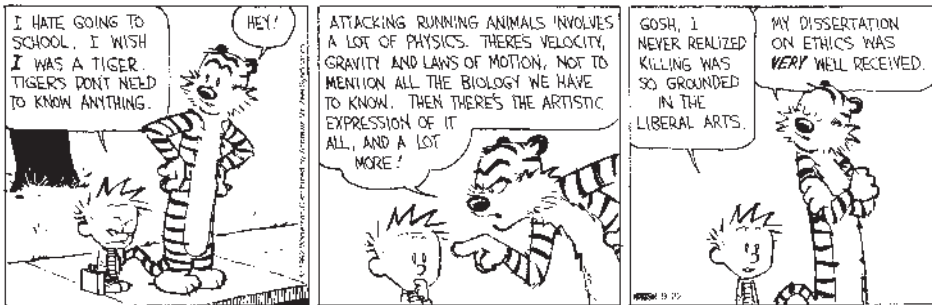
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



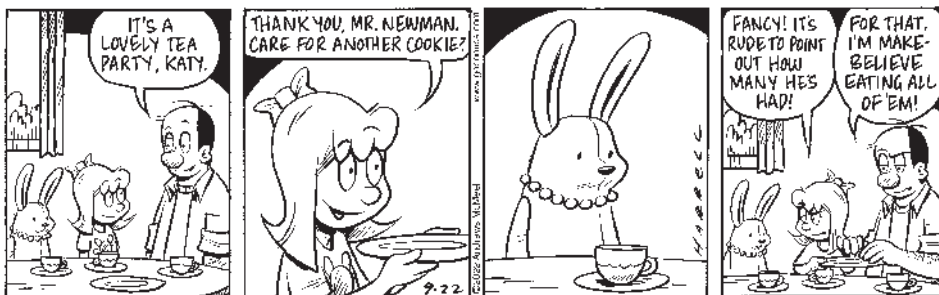
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Frozen" character

5 Droop

8 Aspiring atty.'s exam

12 Former Italian money

13 — Beta Kappa

14 Off-roaders, for short

15 Grand tale

16 Trail the pack

17 Clench

18 Garden pavilion

20 "Reckon so"

22 Asian holiday

23 Busy insect

24 Dick Tracy's love

27 Russian horsemen

32 "Breaking Bad" network

33 Ad —

34 Smack

35 Seller

38 Ballyhoo

DOWN

1 Couturier

2 "Break My Heart" singer

3 Calif. neighbor

4 Diamond sides

5 Mottled

6 "Caught ya!"

7 Leslie Caron role

8 California's — Beach

9 Spandex-like

10 Rara —

11 Recipe amts.

19 Exist

21 Petrol

24 Light touch

25 Big bird of Australia

26 Sore, as a throat

28 Odometer start

29 Like some owls

30 Half a ton

31 Fr. holy woman

36 Orchestral strings

37 Goof up

38 Website invader

41 Downing Street VIP

42 Shortly

43 Juanita's home

44 Belgrade resident

46 Roof edge

47 Writer Wiesel

48 Ego

51 Pitcher Maglie

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	G	E	R	T	I	S	A	B	C	D
N	A	S	A	A	M	O	S	U	R	F
D	J	S	T	M	O	P	S	I	S	E
S	L	O	E	S		O	Y	S	T	E
	H	I	E	S	A	H	A			
D	A	V	S		L	O	A	M	G	A
C	U		C	L	A	S	S	U	R	I
E	L	S		H	A	R	P	A	T	A
	T	E	A	S	S	T	S			
G	A	R	C	I	A		N	I	T	R
O	R	E	O		J	U	S	T	D	O
D	I	A		A	N	A		E	R	A
S	A	D	E		H	I	D		S	I

Yesterday's answer 9-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Felton, 35; Bonnie Hunt, 61; Andrea Bocelli, 64; Joan Jett, 64.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, mull over options and check to see what others do or say. Try something that raises your enthusiasm or that you can negotiate into a pastime you enjoy. Use your talents, and be open to trying something you've never done. Embrace life and choose the most comfortable path. Self-improvement projects will fetch compliments and respect. Your numbers are 4, 17, 22, 29, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have plenty of great ideas. Press forward physically and mentally, and you'll reach your goal and impress someone who can help improve your life or position. Sign up for something that makes you feel good and helps a cause. ☀☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take control of your happiness and put your energy into something that pleases you. Personal improvements to how you look or do your job will make you feel good. Celebrate with someone you love. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stop worrying about others and concentrate on your pursuits. Think big, but when paying for things, look for a bargain. Someone you think you can trust will not offer sound advice or the truth. Verify information before you make a move. ☀☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your wallet someplace safe. Impulse purchases will not pan out. Focus on saving, not spending, and you'll be much happier at the end of the day. Use your time to improve your

appearance or your home environment. Do more and say less. ☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't feel you have to make a snap decision. When in doubt, take a moment or remove yourself from the situation that is making you feel uncomfortable. Do what feels right, and don't count on others if you want things done your way. ☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Live in the moment, and choose to do things that put a smile on your face. Engage in a creative process that entails physical improvements through diet, exercise and hanging out with people who bring out the best in you. Romance is favored. ☀☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An impulsive action will be costly. Don't make promises or purchases that compromise your position. Be direct about what you will contribute or donate, and don't budge, regardless of the pressure you encounter. Speak up, and you'll get what you want. ☀☀☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A systematic approach to sensitive situations will prevent unwanted changes and disruptions. Using your intuition when delegating odd jobs to others will eliminate making a mistake. Keep the conversation playful but productive. An unusual attraction will develop. ☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Follow through with your thoughts until you get a clear picture of what's to come. Planning and developing what you want to see will help you bring your ideas to fruition. Stick to your budget, and do the work yourself whenever possible. ☀☀☀☀☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A financial change is heading your way. Take good care of your health, and don't overreact to what others do or say. Concentrate on what's important to you, and do whatever it takes to lower stress and avoid unsavory situations or talks. ☀☀☀



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what appeals to you, and stop worrying about what others do or think. Protect your interests, and be honest about how you feel. A positive change in a close relationship will develop if you communicate. Put your energy where it counts. ☀☀☀



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Show your independence. Step up and talk about your intentions, and you'll get feedback to help you adjust and move forward with your plans. Be careful while traveling, and don't take a risk with your health or personal documents. ☀☀☀

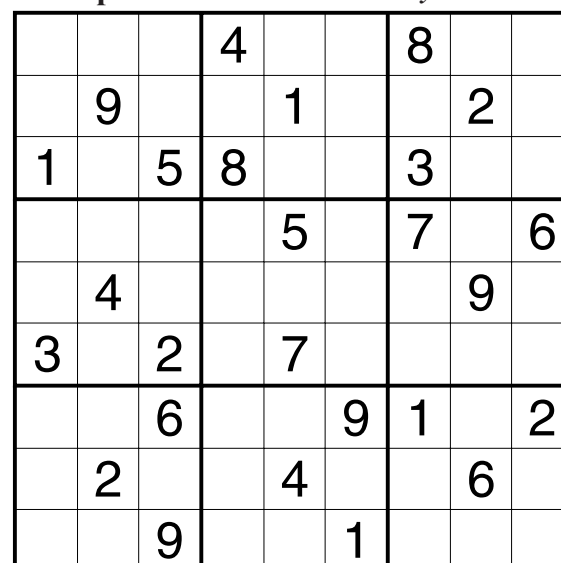
Birthday Baby: You are unique, entertaining and affectionate. You are open-minded and intelligent.

☀: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☀☀: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀☀☀: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀☀☀☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀☀☀☀☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



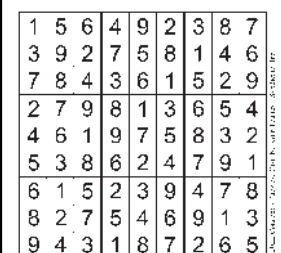
Difficulty Level ★★★

9/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RACKETS OR RACQUETS, IT'S STILL TENNIS! Solution: 7 letters



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Absorber, Aluminum, Bags, Ball, Beam, Beginners, Bevels, Butt, Control, Face, Frame, Graphite, Grommet, Guard, Handle, Junior, Measurements, Metal, Modern, Move, Netting, Nylon, Pair, Power, Replacement, Resin, Rims, Shaft, Size, Speed, Spin, Sponge, Sports, Table, Tape, Technology, Thickness, Throat, Titanium, Tweener, Vibration, Width, Win, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Sandy
The NEW Treasury 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Judge hits 60th, then Yanks walk off Bucs on Stanton's slam



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—Aar-

on Judge hit his 60th home run and Giancarlo Stanton followed minutes later with a game-ending grand slam, completing the New York Yankees' stunning five-run, ninth-inning rally to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-8 on Tuesday night.

Judge moved within one of Roger Maris' American League record when he turned on a sinker from right-hander Wil Crowe (5-10) and drove it 430 feet into the left-field bleachers, pulling New York within 8-5.

Judge matched the 60 home runs Babe Ruth hit for the 1927 Yankees to set a big league record that stood for 37 years.

Stanton, mired in a 9-for-72 slump, lined a slam off Crowe to make a winner of Aroldis Chapman (3-3) and set off a raucous celebration at Yankee Stadium.

Harrison Bader had a pair of go-ahead singles and drove in three runs in his debut for the Yankees.

Blue Jays 18, Phillies 11

In Philadelphia, Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer in the first inning. Jackie Bradley Jr. added a three-run shot in the ninth and Toronto roughed up Philadelphia with 21 hits.

The Blue Jays have won five of seven and have a firm grip on the top AL wild-card spot. The Phillies lost their fifth straight.

Kyle Schwarber hit his NL-best 40th homer of the season for the Phillies in the eighth, a three-run shot that made it 14-10. J.T. Realmuto hit his 20th homer and went 5 for 5 for the Phillies, driving in two runs and scoring twice.

Braves 3, Nationals 2

In Atlanta, Travis d'Arnaud broke a scoreless tie with a two-run homer in the fourth inning. Dansby Swanson went deep in the eighth, and Atlanta beat Washington, clinching a playoff berth not long after a walkoff when Milwaukee lost to the New York Mets.

The Braves have won 10 straight games at home, outscoring opponents 47-15 over this stretch.

Matt Olson singled with out in the fourth before d'Arnaud hit his 18th homer, a 422-foot shot off Erasmo Ramirez (4-2) that made it 2-0.

Charlie Morton (8-6) allowed one run and three hits with three walks and nine strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings.

Mets 7, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Francisco Lindor hit a two-out grand slam in the seventh inning and



New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton gestures after his grand slam against the Pittsburgh Pirates during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, in New York.

New York rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Milwaukee.

Pete Alonso hit his second three-run homer in as many nights as the Mets maintained their one-game lead in the NL East over Atlanta and dealt a blow to the Brewers' wild-card hopes. The Mets won with just four hits.

Milwaukee's loss clinched a playoff spot for Atlanta.

Lindor's grand slam off Taylor Rodgers (4-8) traveled an estimated 413 feet.

Joely Rodriguez (2-4) earned the win with one inning of shutout relief. Edwin Diaz got four outs for his 31st save.

Padres 5, Cardinals 0

In San Diego, Kim Ha-seong homered and Mike Clevinger had a strong outing for San Diego, which shut down Albert Pujols and NL Central-leading St. Louis to clinch its first winning record in a full season since 2010.

The Padres, 82-66, took a 1 1/2-game lead over Philadelphia for the NL's second wild-card spot.

Pujols remained at 698 career homers. He walked and singled off Clevinger, grounded out to shortstop against Nick Martinez and singled off Luis Garcia with two outs in the ninth.

Kim homered to left off Adam Wainwright (11-10) in the fourth, his 10th, for a 3-0 lead.

Astros 5, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Tampa Bay ace Shane Bieber was pulled in the fifth inning with neck tightness during a loss to Houston.

McClanahan (12-6) was making his second start after returning from the 15-day injured list due to a left shoulder

impingement. He allowed five runs for only the second time this season.

Jeremy Peña hit a three-run homer, Jose Altuve scored three runs and the Astros won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 5, first game Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 2, 2nd game

In Los Angeles, Drey Jameson pitched six strong innings in his second big league game and Ketel Marte homered as Arizona beat Los Angeles 5-2 in the second game to split a doubleheader.

The Dodgers won the opener 6-5 as rookie Miguel Vargas drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in a five-run eighth.

Jameson (2-0) and the Diamondbacks ended the Dodgers' five-game winning streak. After throwing seven scoreless innings in his major league debut last week against San Diego, the 25-year-old righty extended his career-opening scoreless streak to 12 innings before finally giving up a pair of runs on Max Muncy's 21st homer.

Jameson allowed two runs and seven hits, striking out seven and walking one.

Reyes Moronta pitched the ninth for his first save. Arizona won for only the second time in its last 22 games at Dodger Stadium.

In the first game, Los Angeles rallied for its MLB-leading 44th comeback win. It was the Dodgers' fifth straight win as they batted around in the eighth and rallied from a 5-1 deficit.

Ryan Pepiot (3-0) got the win. Chris Martin pitched the ninth to earn his second save.

Christian Walker hit his 35th home run and Daulton Varsho also connected for Arizona. Kevin Ginkel (1-1) took the loss.

Tigers 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Joey Wentz took a shutout into the sixth inning and Akil Baddoo and Kerry Carpenter homered to lift Detroit past fading Baltimore.

Wentz (2-2) allowed two hits and two walks in 5 2/3 innings. It was the third time in five big league starts that the rookie has held the opposition scoreless.

Rookie standout Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run homer in the seventh for Baltimore's first runs of the series.

Red Sox 5, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, J.D. Martinez and Rob Refsnyder hit solo homers, and Rafael Devers had a two-run shot as Boston beat Cincinnati.

Red Sox rookie right-hander Brayan Bello (2-6) ended a streak of 44 1/3 innings without allowing a homer as TJ Friedl had a solo shot in the third inning. Bello gave up the run and eight hits in five innings.

Reds rookie left-hander Nick Lodolo (4-7) walked three and hit three batters over his five innings, giving the Reds a major league-record 99 hit batters this season — eclipsing the Chicago Cubs' total of 98 last year.

Cubs 2, Marlins 1

In Miami David Bote hit a tying home run in the seventh inning, then added a sacrifice fly in the eighth that lifted Chicago over Miami.

Esteban Quiroz got the first two hits of his major league career and P.J. Higgins also

had two hits for the Cubs, who snapped a three-game skid.

Chicago loaded the bases with no outs without a hit in the eighth against reliever Steven Okert (5-3). Bote then hit a go-ahead flyball.

Adbert Alzolay (1-1) threw two innings of perfect relief. Brandon Hughes closed with a scoreless ninth around Garrett Cooper's leadoff double for his sixth save.

Giants 6, Rockies 3

In Denver, Austin Slater doubled twice, David Villar homered and San Francisco beat Colorado.

Giants lefty Carlos Rodón was originally scheduled to start Tuesday but was pushed back to Friday at Arizona because of a blister on his pitching hand.

Tyler Rogers (3-4) pitched two innings for the win and Jarlín García got the final out for his first save.

C.J. Cron homered, doubled and drove in three for the Rockies to set a career high in RBIs with 101.

Colorado starter Kyle Freeland (9-10) was solid for five innings before running into trouble in the sixth.

Royals 5, Twins 4

In Kansas City, Mo., MJ Melendez hit a two-run homer, Salvador Perez drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out double in the seventh inning, and Kansas City held off fading Minnesota.

Dylan Coleman (5-2) pitched a scoreless seventh for the Royals. Scott Barlow cleaned up Jose Cuas' mess by striking out Mark Contreras to strand runners on second and third in the eighth, then handled the ninth for his 22nd save.

The Royals trailed 3-0 in the second, pulled ahead in the fifth and were still tied 4-all when Melendez doubled off Twins reliever Michael Fulmer (5-6) in the seventh. Bobby Witt Jr. followed with a double, then took third when Melendez tried to score and was thrown out by Twins left fielder Jake Cave on a bang-bang play at the plate.

Perez came through on the very next pitch, though, dumping the go-ahead double down the right-field line.

Minnesota has dropped five of six to begin an eight-game trip, falling well behind in the wild-card race.

Angels 5, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Taylor Ward hit a tiebreaking RBI double during Los Angeles' three-run sixth inning that ended with a triple play by Texas.

Ward doubled into the left-field corner to score Shohei Ohtani from first base off

Dennis Santana (3-8), the first of three Texas relievers. Mike Ford and Jo Adell added RBI singles off John King.

With the bases loaded and none out, Max Stassi hit a sharp grounder to third base. Josh Jung fielded the ball and stepped on the base before launching an around-the-horn triple play.

Patrick Sandoval (6-9) got his third consecutive win, allowing two runs in five innings.

Guardians 10, White Sox 7, 11 innings

In Chicago, Myles Straw had a tiebreaking two-run double in Cleveland's five-run 11th inning, and the Guardians moved closer to the American League Central title.

The Guardians won for the 12th time in 16 extra-inning games this season and expanded their lead to five games over the White Sox with 14 games remaining. Cleveland improved to 10-7 against Chicago, winning the season series and a tiebreaker if the teams finish the season tied for first place.

Straw got his game-winning hit off Jake Diekmann (5-4), and Steven Kwan followed with his fourth hit — an RBI single — to score Straw. Kwan scored on Jose Ramirez's sacrifice fly, and a throwing error by Chicago catcher Seby Zavala allowed Amed Rosario to score with an insurance run.

Emmanuel Clase (3-4), who allowed a game-tying single to Jose Abreu in the 10th for his fourth blown save in 40 chances, earned the win. Bryan Shaw survived a two-run home run by AJ Pollock — his 1,000th career hit — in the bottom of the 11th.

Athletics 4, Marlins 1

In Oakland, Calif., Luis Castillo got chased in the fifth inning and contending Seattle Mariners managed just one hit in losing to Oakland.

Carlos Santana's infield single in the second inning was all the Mariners could muster at the plate against JP Sears (6-2) and four relievers. Seattle remained one-half game behind Tampa Bay for the third and final AL wild-card spot.

The Mariners have a magic number of 11 to reach the playoffs for the first time since their 116-win season of 2001. But Seattle again struggled to beat the last-place A's in Oakland, where the Mariners lost two of three at the Coliseum from Aug. 19-21.

Castillo (7-6) is 3-2 in nine starts since being acquired from Cincinnati at the trade deadline. He matched his shortest outing of the season at 4 2/3 innings.

Domingo Acevedo finished for his third save.

Early season downturn in offense avoids Ravens, Dolphins

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



The downturn in offense from the first two weeks of the NFL season hasn't touched all corners of the league with a handful of players and teams putting up staggering numbers.

Never was that more evident than from Miami's comeback win at Baltimore last week.

Scoring and passing efficiency are down significantly from recent years and at their lowest level at this point of the season since 2017, with the 21.4 points per game average down from 24.0 last year at this point and the second-lowest since 2011 to the 20.1 points per game in 2017. The 90 passer rating across the league is also the lowest through two weeks since the 87.9 in 2017.

But there was plenty of offense on a record-setting day in Baltimore on Sunday.

Tua Tagovailoa threw for 469 yards and six TDs, becoming the ninth quarterback in NFL history to throw for at least 450 yards and six scores in the same game.

He joined Patrick Mahomes, Drew Brees, Ben Roethlisberger, Peyton Manning, Matt Flynn, Joe Montana, Joe Namath and Y.A. Tittle.

He got most of his production throwing to speedsters Tyreek Hill (11 catches for 190 yards and two TDs) and Jaylen Waddle (11 catches for 171 yards and two TDs). They are the first set of teammates to each have at least 170 yards receiving and two touchdowns in the same game.

Baltimore's Lamar Jackson also had a noteworthy day, becoming the first player in NFL history to have a TD pass and



Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass to wide receiver Jaylen Waddle during the second half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, in Baltimore.

a TD run of at least 75 yards in the same game.

Jackson threw for 318 yards and three scores and ran for 119 yards and a TD. Jackson became the first player in NFL history to have multiple games with at least 100 yards rushing and 300 yards passing, also doing it in a playoff loss to Tennessee in the 2019 season.

The Ravens and Dolphins weren't alone in putting up some prolific numbers.

Jared Goff and the Lions became the fifth team in the past 10 years to score at least 35 points in each of the first two games joining the 2020 Packers (Aaron Rodgers at QB), the 2020 Seahawks (Russell Wilson), the 2018 Chiefs (Patrick Mahomes) and 2013 Broncos (Peyton Manning).

Second-year receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown has played a big role in the suc-

cess with 17 catches for 180 yards and three scores. St. Brown has tied an NFL record with eight straight games dating to last season with at least eight catches, joining Antonio Brown (2014) and Michael Thomas (2019).

Buffalo receiver Stefon Diggs had his third career game with at least three TD catches and 140 yards receiving. Only Hall of Famers Jerry Rice (seven) and Randy Moss (four) have more in the Super Bowl era.

Also on Monday night, Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts threw for 333 yards and ran for 57 for his third career game with at least 300 yards through the air and 50 on the ground.

Only Steve Young (eight), Josh Allen (five), Wilson (four), and Mike Vick (four) have more of those games in the Super Bowl era.

DIVISION DOINGS

It was a rough week in the AFC North with all four teams losing on Sunday. This was the ninth time since the start of the eight-division era in 2002 that all four teams in that division all lost in the same week. It last happened in Week 3 of the 2019 season.

The eight weeks with an 0-4 record for the AFC North are the second most for any division in that span, trailing only the 10 for the NFC West. It has happened five times each in the AFC South, NFC East and NFC North, three times in the NFC South, twice in the AFC West and never in the AFC East.

The AFC East was on the other side of the equation with all four teams winning, including three head-to-head matchups against the AFC North.

That was the eighth time all

four AFC East teams won in the same week, trailing only the nine times it has happened in the AFC West. It has happened seven times in the NFC West, five times in the NFC South and NFC East, four times in the NFC North and three times in the AFC North and AFC South.

UNDER PRESSURE

The offseason upgrades to the offensive line in Cincinnati

haven't helped keep Joe Burrow clean so far this season.

Burrow has been sacked 13 times in the first two games of the season, tied for the fifth most by a player through two games since the merger. Only David Carr (15 in 2002 for Houston), Jeff George (15 in 1998 for Oakland), Dave Krieg (14 in 1982 for Seattle) and Joe Pisarcik (14 in 1979 for the Giants) had more.

Burrow has now been sacked at least five times in 11 of his 32 career starts including the playoffs. In comparison, Tom Brady has been sacked at least five times in 10 of his 367 starts.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

There hasn't been much to cheer for when it comes to football in the New York City area the last few years with the Giants and Jets posting the worst records in the NFL since the start of 2017.

That's what made Sunday so rare. The Jets rallied from 13 points down in the final two minutes for an improbable win at Cleveland and the Giants beat Carolina at home. That marked the fifth time in the past six seasons that the two teams won in the same week.

It also happened in Weeks 4 and 12 last year, Week 16 in 2019 and Week 14 in 2014.

Dennis Schröder returning to Lakers with 1-year deal

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Point guard Dennis Schröder is returning for a second stint with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Schröder's agency, Priority Sports, announced the deal on social media Friday. Schröder confirmed it with an Instagram post.

The German guard spent the 2020-21 season with LeBron James and the Lakers, averaging 15.4 points and 5.8 assists per game. Los Angeles offered him a four-year contract extension worth more than \$80 million during the season, but he apparently turned it down to seek more money in free agency.

But Schröder struck out in the market and signed a \$5.9 million deal with the Boston Celtics, who then traded him to Houston late last season in a deal for Daniel Theis.

"This past year didn't feel right ... I felt misunderstood & nobody really knew the story!" Schröder wrote Friday. "I'm coming back to the biggest organization to make (things) right! I hope Lak-

erNation going to support me every single day! I will give everything I have every single day!"

Schröder is averaging 14.2 points and 4.7 assists per game over nine NBA seasons with five teams, excelling as a sparkplug guard who can score or create.

His agency announced the deal shortly after Schröder's German national team lost to Spain in the EuroBasket semifinals. Schröder had 30 points on 11-of-17 shooting and eight assists in the defeat.

Schröder's return leaves the Lakers with a crowded backcourt behind Russell Westbrook, who has survived nearly a full offseason of trade speculation and is due to make \$47 million this year after a disappointing first year with his hometown team.

Newcomers Patrick Beverley and Lonnie Walker IV and holdovers Kendrick Nunn and Austin Reaves are also on the roster. Schröder, Beverley, Nunn and Westbrook can all play point guard.

Roger Federer to discuss his retirement on Wednesday

LONDON (AP)—In Roger Federer's case, the farewell news conference will come before the beginning of what he's said will be the last competitive tennis event of his career.

Federer is in London and has been practicing ahead of the Laver Cup, an event founded by his management team that begins Friday with the fifth edition of its Team Europe vs. Team World format.

The main rivals whose careers overlapped with Federer's — Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray — also are participating.

Before the Laver Cup starts, Federer will meet with the media Wednesday morning to discuss walking away from tournament tennis at age 41 after a career that began in the 1990s, lasted until the 2020s and included 20 Grand Slam

championships, 83 titles at other tournaments and hundreds of weeks at No. 1 in the rankings.

He is bidding adieu shortly after Serena Williams played what is expected to be the last match of her career at the U.S. Open, signaling a significant shift for a sport they both transcended for decades.

Williams told the world of her plans to stop playing via a magazine article, then did not hold a news conference until after her first match at Flushing Meadows; the 23-time Grand Slam champion made it to the third round there before losing to Ajla Tomljanovic.

Federer last played a match at Wimbledon in 2021, when he lost in the quarterfinals to Hubert Hurkacz. Shortly after that, Federer had surgery on his right knee for the third time in a span of about 1 1/2 years.

The Swiss star had hoped to play at Basel in his home country next month and had suggested he might be able to enter Wimbledon one last time next year. But recovery and rehabilitation of his knee became too much.

He called his retirement a "bittersweet decision" when he announced it last week via social media. Wednesday offers a chance to hear more about what went into that choice and what Federer might have in mind for the future.

His tweet concluded: "Finally, to the game of tennis: I love you and will never leave you." That would bode well for those fans of Federer's who hope to see him continue to hold a role in the sport — and would bode well for the sport, too.

Djokovic wrote on Instagram after Federer revealed

he'd be retiring that it was "hard to see this day and put into words all that we've shared in this sport together."

It's unclear just how much Federer actually will participate in the Laver Cup. There are singles and doubles matches across the three days, and his agent said Federer definitely will play.

Back in February, when word emerged that Federer would be in London, he said Nadal messaged him last year suggesting they play doubles together again. They teamed up to win a doubles match during the first Laver Cup in 2017.

"If we're able to possibly share the court one more time as a doubles pairing," Nadal said at the time, "then this would be a truly special experience for us both at this stage in our careers."

Koblerville splits two ES soccer games

By LEIGH GASES

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CORRESPONDENT

Koblerville Elementary School 1 and 2 split their games in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

KES 1 outgaled Mount Carmel School, 10-0, after their sister team lost to William S. Reyes 2, 11-2.

Napu Pangelinan of KES 1 came rushing out of the starting gate with a goal in the third minute of the game, going through MCS' defense like a knife through butter. He would make two more goals for a total of three in the game. Eli Met-

tao tied him with three goals as well, while Nnart Siech and Eric Palacios Jr. had a couple each.

Cricket sounds dominated MCS' offense as they could not score and get past the KES goalie and their defense, resulting in the final score of 10-0.

GTC-2, 2 BSS 2

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Brilliant Star School ended the match with a 2-2 draw.

Damian Herman of GTC scored both goals, with one in the first half and one in the second half.

Evan Poole of BSS scored the team's two goals in the second half when it seemed like a win for GTC.

Both teams were then unable



Koblerville Elementary School 1 pose for a team photo before their game against Mount Carmel School in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

to score any more goals in the final seconds of the game.

KagES 1, SVES 0

Kagman Elementary School defeated San Vicente Elementary School, 1-0.

The only goal made by KES was by Trey Manglona after he found the back of the net in the first half.

GCA 4, GES 0

Grace Christian Academy silenced Garapan Elementary School, 4-0.

GCA's Tristan Torres sped through the field to score two goals in the first 20 minutes of the game.

He was followed up by teammates Mateo Angeles and Sarang Lee as they scored two

goals in the second half.

GES was unable to weave through the GCA's defense as they were shut down.

WSR-1 5, MCS-1 0

William S. Reyes Elementary School put up five goals to Mount Carmel School's zero, with Herman Villagomez taking charge and scoring four of them.

The only other goal was made by Hudson Igisomar.

MCS could not retaliate as they crumbled and failed to score.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association coordinates the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League along with the Public School System Athletic Program

The results and standings of the elementary school's third game day will be posted in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Lady Eagles topple Kosebaki

By LEIGH GASES

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The Lady Eagles continued their ascent up the standings after nipping Kosebaki, 11-10 in the women's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.



The once middle-ranked teams in the standings now have gone separate ways with the Lady Eagles in the upper echelon with a 4-3 win-loss record, with Kosebaki going the opposite direction at 3-4.

The Lady Eagles did not have it easy as they were shut down in the first three innings of the game by Kosebaki pitcher Jenny Scaliem. Their first run did not come until

Lynnae Cabrera crossed home plate in the fourth inning.

More runs came in later during the fifth inning when Ike-lau Ngirarois, Felisa Brel, Bel Igitio, and Verlynn Sechar-midal scored one run each, to catch up a little closer to Kosebaki, 9-5.

The game started to turn around in the sixth inning when Kosebaki scored only one run and had no runs in the last inning, which triggered a rally by the Lady Eagles to score six runs in the final inning for a close final score of 11-10.

Verlyn Secharmidal contributed the most RBIs with four, while Glare Mabel had three.

On the Sunday before this game, the Lady Eagles defeated the 670 Babes, 18-13.

The 670 Babes are in the

bottom of the standings with two wins and four losses.

Queens of Diamonds 13, Tokahao Ladies 1

The Queens of Diamonds continued their reign of supremacy in the form of runs and great pitching against the Tokahao Ladies in a run-ruled 13-1 win.

It was the sixth win in seven games for the Queens of the Diamond, while Tokahao Ladies continued their slide down the standings with a 1-6 card.

Kiana Aldan started with a leadoff run which trickled down to the next couple of batters, Kiana Camacho and Rachel Salalila, to bring the Queens up 3-0.

In the second inning, four runs were scored, while in the

third inning, they went on a six-run streak with back-to-back home runs by Kiana Camacho

and Erin Mendiola. The former collected five RBIs, while Rachel Salalila, Erin Mendi-



LEIGH GASES

Lady Eagles outfielder eyes a fly ball made by a Kosebaki batter which she attempts to catch in the women's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday.

COMPETITION

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wealth players need to level up if they stand any chance of competing against the best in the region.

"The competition in the Pacific is tough and getting tougher every year. Tahiti is always the main competition. With 11 tennis clubs, all with courts and coaches, they have an intense level of competition there just to be able to make it here," he said.

Race added that the CNMI was already at a disadvantage even before leaving for Fiji with inadequate training facilities on the island.

"The No. 1 priority of our tennis program has got to be the development of a national

training center of at least four courts. Right now we don't even know if or where we'll be training next week or next month. We weren't able to train properly for the time before we came as our group training at one time was too large and vying for court time with the public at [the American Memorial Park tennis courts]."

It can be remembered that original plans for the long-awaited facelift of the Oleai Sports Complex was the inclusion of a national tennis training center with four tennis courts.

However, when the final plans for transforming the Oleai Sports Complex into a modern state-of-the-art sports facility came out, the tennis courts were reduced to only two and in its place is a swim-

ming pool.

Despite the frustration on the lack of adequate facilities, Race said he's still thankful that 17 of the CNMI's top netters get to experience high-level tennis at the Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka. He also extended his gratitude to companies that bankrolled the CNMI's delegation to the 2022 POJC.

"I'd especially like to thank Tan Holdings for their support. We couldn't have made this trip without them having our backs. Also the Tan family and Crowne Plaza, who gave us a place to train for the past year, even though their hotel was under renovation. Thanks to all those businesses who sponsored our fundraising tournaments; Bridge Capital, White Coconut Scanning, and

la, Bert Camacho, and Keolani Rios had one RBI each.

Bert Camacho, who happens to be the leading pitcher of the women's division, demonstrated her dominance once again as she shut down the Tokahao Ladies in three straight innings and allowed only one run in the fourth.

The only run made by the Tokahao Ladies was by Kim Celes in the fourth inning. Four Tokahao Ladies were struck out by Camacho and only six hits were made against her.

On the Sunday before this game, the Tokahao Ladies fell to the Hot Shots in a close game, losing 13-14.

The Hot Shots are currently in the Top 2 of the women's division at 4-2.

Tan Holdings. Also the many supporters of our Beach Clean Up event, who are too numerous to mention. For sure the Rotary Club of Saipan and IT&E. Also the sacrifices of the parents, the hard work of dedicated coaches and most of all the drive and love of the game of our junior players," he said.

Aside from Wessel, Yu, and Chung, other NMI junior netters that saw action in Fiji were boys 16-and-under's Minsoo "David" Kwon, girls 16's Serin Chung and Savita Sikel, boys 14's La Hunn Lam, Seung Woo Choi, and Siwoo Lee, girls 14's Hoo Wang, Hannah Chae, and Anna Kwon, boys 12's Yutaka Kadokura, Ian Chae, Ryan Choi, and Jihun Park, and girls 12's Lina Tsukagoshi.

NMSA

From Page 20

lotted a \$21.2 million grant to rebuild the Oleai Sports Complex and create an adjacent cultural events site.

Besides overseeing the improvement works at the Oleai Sports Complex, the NMSA's leadership will also play an important role in the NMI's preparations for the 2023 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands, the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands, and the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau.

With the Micro Games and

Pacific Games approaching, the NMSA is looking to assist national federations in sending as many delegates as possible to the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands by seeking financial help from the government to arrange charter flights for Team NMI.

"Our athletes have proven in this year's Mini Games what they can do when pitted against the best athletes in our region. They will continue to raise their skill level if we will also continue to provide them opportunities to compete," NMSA vice president Ramon Tebuteb said. (PR)

against an already tired MCS JV, which they won in two sets, 21-18, 21-8.

With the teams' wins, both MHS 9 and the varsity team are at three wins and one loss, while the MHS JV is at two wins and one loss.

After the game, MHS volleyball team coach Don Marshall

Davis Cabrera was asked what are the MHS varsity team's chances in making it all the way.

"I think our chances are pretty good. We just need to do a lot of cleaning up. We're still playing really sloppily, but I'm proud of them... we had four games and all my teams won today, so [I'm] happy for

that, but there's still room for improvement."

In the other games of the night, Grace Christian Academy JV faced off with Kagman High School and won in two sets, 21-10, 21-8.

Agape Christian School varsity played against Saipan International School and won

in two sets, 21-15, 21-14.

In the varsity standings, GCA is still on top with 3-0, MHS is at 3-1, MCS is still 2-1, SIS is at 2-1, ACS is at 1-2, KHS is still 0-2, and SSS is at the bottom with a 0-4 record.

In the junior varsity standings, MHS 9 and GCA JV are

at 3-1, SSS JV and MHS JV are at 2-1, ACS JV and SIS JV are at 1-2, KHS JV and MCS JV are at 1-3.

The Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.



Judge hits 60th,
then Yanks walk off
Bucs on Stanton's
slam

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Koblerville splits
two ES soccer
games

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20 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMSA elects new board of directors, officers



The Northern Marianas Sports Association has elected its new board of directors and officers, who will have a busy calendar, as the NMI prepares for three off-island competitions and looks forward to further improvements at the Oleai Sports Complex in the next four years.

Elected to the NMSA board during last month's special meeting of the general membership were the following: Jerry Tan, president; Ramon Tebuteb, vice president; Valerie Hofschneider, general

secretary; John Hirsh, treasurer; John Davis, James Lee, and Alex Sablan, directors; and Nick Gross, ex-officio member.

"The NMSA board is pleased and thankful for the confidence and trust that the general membership or the different national sports federations have given us. It will be a very busy four years for all of us, as we work on keeping the momentum we have built from the successful hosting of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and put together our efforts in supporting programs for our athletes, coaches, and technical

officials, and in transforming and maintaining our facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex," Tan said.

The NMSA is the caretaker of the Oleai Sports Complex that houses multiple sports and events facilities. The complex, which has already undergone several improvements after sustaining significant damage from back-to-back super typhoons, will continue its upgrade with the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce's awarding of a grant to the NMI last year. EDA has al-

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Tan



Tebuteb



Hofschneider



Hirsh



Davis



Lee



Sablan



Gross

'Competition getting tougher every year'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI junior netters pose with other players from the region taking part in the 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championship at the Regional Training Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

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With only the boys 14 doubles team of Nasson Wessel and June Yu bringing home the bacon, CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race is far from satisfied with how his wards fared in the recently concluded 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championship held in Lautoka, Fiji.



"Did we do as well as I'd have liked? Definitely not. If we're not No. 1 I'm not entirely happy," he said.

Aside from Wessel and Yu, Irin Chung also salvaged third

place in the girls 14 singles in the POJC, which was canceled the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Race, the CNMI sports hall of famer and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation president, said Common-

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3 Lady Dolphins teams on a roll

By LEIGH GASES
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All three Marianas High School girls volleyball teams continued their winning streak as they proved once again to their cheering and screaming home crowd that their losses in their openers were just a fluke.

The three Lady Dolphins teams swept all four of their games last Tuesday in the continuation of the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 at the MHS Gymnasium.

The last win of the night for the home team saw the MHS varsity beat archrival Saipan Southern High School in a

close match, 21-18, 21-18.

The MHS team had the lead in the last set and almost blew it as the Lady Manta Rays put up a fight to catch up and force a third set, but ultimately fell short when MHS reached the 21-point mark first.

The first win of the night came courtesy of MHS JV when they broke down Mount Carmel School JV in three tough sets, 23-21, 21-23, 15-9.

Afterwards, the MHS 9 team took the spotlight when they claimed back-to-back wins.

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LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School girls varsity volleyball captain Raenna Rogo-lifo attempts to hit the ball across the net toward Saipan Southern High School in their game in the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.